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FLYING SOUTH 50 pairs of Virgin Atlantic tickets to Johannesburg to be won

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HOLLYWOOD TO HAMMERSMITH

Elizabeth McGovern's Atlantic crossing



VOTE **WINNERS** Where the parties stand on you and your savings WEEKEND

MONDAY THE TIMES FOR ONLY 10_P **EVERY** MONDAY

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Hamilton attacks chief whip

Major rejects sleaze row slur as 'junk'

By Andrew Pierce and Arthur Leathley

JOHN MAJOR was depressed and irritated yesterday as new sleaze allegations continued to overshadow the

Tory election campaign.
The Prime Minister was visibly angry as he dismissed as "junk" claims that he had ignored evidence that Tim Smith, the MP for Beaconsfield, had accepted large undeclared cash payments when he appointed him to the Government in 1994.

Mr Smith told the then Chief Whip David Waddington in February 1989 that he had not declared payments of up to £25,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods. However, Mr Major insisted yesterday that the information had not beenpassed to him after he became. Prime Minister the following

The claim had been made in The Guardian, which published five pages of transcript evidence from the Commons inquiry into the cash-for-questions affair. The newspaper, which may face contempt of Parhament charges, had ob-tained the material through its own participation in the investigation, and its decision to publish was deplored by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner. Sir Gordon said: "It is a gross breach of the trust placed in those to whom documents were sent, in confidence, under the inquiry proregret that it would not be possible for the Standards and Privileges Committee to receive and act on his full report before the election. "But the selective leaking of evidence is against the interests of natural

justice." The two former ministers at the heart of the storm were in their constituencies last night for their associations' annual meetings, where the sleaze allegations dominated events.

Torics copy Kinnock.. Page 10 Hamilton anger Page 11 Simon Jenkins Leading article.

Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister and MP for Tatton, insisted that he had robustly defended the allegations in his evidence to Sir Gordon's inquiry.

Evidence obtained by The Times reveals that Mr Hamilton launched a bitter attack on Richard Ryder, the Tory chief whip at the time the allegations were made, for withdrawing support when the media offensive became too relentless".

Documents obtained by The Times also reveal for the first time that Mr Smith admitted to Sir Gordon that he was part of a group of five Tory MPs

cedures." He repeated his who worked "in operation" with Ian Greer, the lobbyist, and Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Smith, who accepted between £18,000 to £25,000 in used £50 notes from Mr Al Fayed, said: "I think it was very much in Mr Greer's interest to show that there definitely was a group. Obviwas part of that ously I

Mr Smith, who resigned as Northern Ireland Minister when the cash-for-questions allegations were published in October 1994, was asked whether Mr Hamilton was performing identical functions to you"? He replied: "Yes. He certainly was a member of

that group."

Other MPs in the group included Sir Andrew Bowden. the MP for Brighton Kemptown, who acepted £5,000 for his constituency acepted funds from Mr Greer. He is also accused of receiving a further £5,000 from Mr Al Fayed who then dropped him, allegedly because he became "too greedy". He has denied

They also included Sir Peter Hordern, the MP for Horsham, who is revealed today as the tenth man on the list of MPs still being investigated by Sir Gordon Downey. Sir Peter, who listed his connection to the House of Fraser in the Register of MPs' interests, was paid £72,000 for his Continued on page 2, col 7



A policewoman carries a six-month-old boy from the scene of yesterday's bombing at the Apropos café in Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv suicide bomber kills three

THREE people were killed and more than forty wounded yesterday when an Islamic suicide bomb ripped through a Tel Aviv coffee shop where children in fancy dress were celebrating the Purim holiday. It was the first such attack since Binyamin Netanyahu came to power last May promising Israelis "peace with security". He immediately blamed the Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat, while fellow members of his coalition government called for an end to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The bomb's victims included a six-month-old boy dressed in a traditional Purim red and blue clown's costume who was carried away screaming by a police woman, his head matted with blood. His mother was among those injured by the 20-year-old killer, who stared at his victims before detonating his dufflebag nailbomb.

Last night hatred between Israelis and Palestinians was nearly at breaking point after reports of Palestinian joy at the attack, which was shown repeatedly on television.

Riots in Hebron against the new Jewish settlement at Har-Homa left four Israeli soldiers wounded and 30 Palestinians ere treated for tion. Troops used live bullets to prevent Arabs from storming a Jewish settlement building.

At the same time, a leader of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas told a cheering crowd of 10,000 at a rally in the West Bank city of Nablus: "I have good news for you. There is a suicide operation in Tel Aviv." At least a hundred would-he suicide hombers are said to be standing by in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel blames Arafat, page 18 Leading article, page 25

Nato deadlock at summit

The Helsinki summit ended with Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin agreeing to disagree over Nato's plans to extend its membership eastwards. The two leaders did, however, make a commitment to forge ahead in several areas of arms control and economic co-operation. Mr Yeltsin said: "We want to do away with the past mistrust and animosity. We can't accomplish this im-____ Page 20 mediately."

W. Awdry dies

The Rev W. Awdry, creator of Thomas the Tank Engine, has died aged 85. But the fleet of trains that has delighted gencrations of children will live on Awdry's son Christopher will continue to chronicle their adventures Page 8 Page 27



The Times on the Internet ttp://www.the-times.co.uk



Labour refuses to back Howard's choice for Tote

By Richard Evans and Richard Ford

came a casualty of general election fever last night after Michael Howard and Jack Straw clashed over who should succeed Lord Wyatt of Weeford as head of the staterun pool betting operation. Major-General Guy Wat-

THE Tote chairmanship be-

kins, 63, who ran racing in Hong Kong for ten years, was Mr Howard's surprise choice for the £75,000-a-year post, but now the appointment has been put on hold until after) - the day a new chairman should take over. The Home Secretary, who

was obliged to consult his Labour shadow over the highprofile job. put forward Gen-

Pryce: controlled

eral Watkins's name on Thursday night. Mr Straw then said that he wanted to interview the shortlist of applicants. Mr Howard refused and after more talks the appointment was put off until after election day.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The normal practice is for all major appointments to be frozen during a period of a general election. For appointments to be made during this period would have been exceptional and would require the agreement of the Opposition. Mr Straw said that it had been well known for some months that a new Tote chair-

man was needed. In a state-

from his London bedroom.

By ADAM FRESCO

DOUBLE BASS player at the Royal

College of Music caused "more harm

than the KGB" when he hacked into

American defence and missile systems

Using equipment that cost £750 from his local High Street in Colindale, 16-year-

old Richard Pryce obtained the passwords

to download the computer records of the US Air Force and Lockheed defence

computers. He gained access to the Air

Force's Premier Command and Control

Research Facility, then at Griffiths Air

Force base in New York, which dealt with

sensitive subjects such as artificial

ment he said the Home Secretary had chosen Parliament's last business day to ask for approval of his candidate. He had told Mr Howard "it was inappropriate to make such a major public appoint-ment now that the election has

actually been called". Labour has approved other Home Office appointments because the party knew the candidates. It had no detailed knowledge of the Tote's shortlisted candidates.

Lird Wyatt, Tote chairman for 21 years, had backed Lieutenant-General Sir Willie Rous, a retired Army Board member, to replace him. Racing uncertainty, page 56

Schoolboy hacker was 'No 1 threat' to US security

known third party."

to American security.

Writers pay homage to V S Pritchett

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

V. S. PRITCHETT, the master of short story writing and literary criticism, has died

The novelist Martin Amis said last night: "He was one of the very greatest English writers of the century. His collec-tion of stories is perhaps the greatest single volume by any writer this century. He was a visionary: he wrote about people as if he knew exactly what they dreamt every night. He was an inspiration on my

writing.' That view was echoed by the novelist Julian Barnes, who described Sir Victor as "the best English short story writer of the last 50 years". Claire Tomalin, who as

A Congressional report on computer

anacks said: "A i6-year-old British hacker

was seizing control of defence department

computers on the direction of an un-

His solicitor said that officials believed

he was being manipulated by an East

European outfit. The security breach was

also discussed in the Senate where Pryce

was accused of "causing more harm than

the KGB" and described as the No I threat

Pryce, now 19, was yesterday fined E1,200 by Bow Street magistrates, who

accepted his innocent motives after he

admitted 12 charges of gaining access to the computers. They ordered his comput-

er equipment to be confiscated.

literary editor of The New Statesman used to publish his critical articles, said: "He would write them, his wife Dorothy would type them and Victor would go over them with a red pen until they became wonderful works of art. He was the best literary journalist of his generation without a doubt. He was a giant."

The novelist Ian McEwan said: "It's a very sad day." He noted that Pritchett saw comedy as having a "militant tragic edge" and said: "His stories were superbly crafted — very funny but often horribly revealing."

The boy had been offered up to £30,000 by publishers and Hollywood film-

makers had he fought the case. But he

admitted the charge on the night of his

arrest. He had also been sent £600 from

one source, but had given it to charity. Geoffrey Robertson QC, for Pryce, said

the Pentagon had at first suspected a spy

ring. Instead they found the schoolboy,

leading an extraordinarily sheltered exis-

tence in the bosom of a loving family but devoting himself to an obsessive involve-

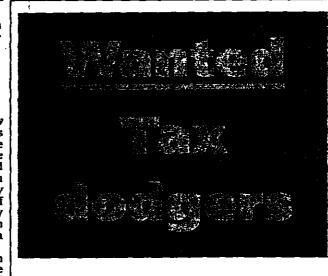
ment with computers. "He made no profit

and there was no subversion of defence

taking measures to stop its "systems

The Pentagon said yesterday that it was

Obituary, page 27



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tax year ends on April 5th.



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coming under computer attack".

systems." Mr Robertson said.

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14 PAGES OF WIMBLEDON v NEWCASTLE Rob Hughes reports from Selhurst Park SUPERMAN, MBE 48 hours in the life of the big man of rugby, Martin Offiah THE CASE FOR THE SIX NATIONS Should Italy join ALL NEXT WEEK 50 pairs of Virgin flights to Johannesburg to be won PLUS Win a big game

trip to the Kruger

National Park

Collect tokens

Farewell the characters: here comes the cloned MF

AMID the gilded splendours of the Lords Chamber, the sumptuous pageantry of the Royal Prorogation was only slightly marred by the scream of one of their Lordships hearing devices.

It seemed to have been sent haywire by feedback from the sound amplification system. and started an electronic caterwauling such as occurs when callers to radio phoneins forget to switch off their wirelesses. At first nobody could tell where the noise was coming from. Scores of worried fingers began tapping scores of noble ears, to check antique hearing aids.

Atlention then moved to a small, elderly baron. Attendants hastened to his assistance. A black box was

removed from the confused peer. Accusing glances shot his way. It was like the scene in the lounge of an old people's home, when one of the inmates has inadvertently broken wind. But he recovered his composure.

And in pranced the Lord Chancellor and his playmates, milords Cranborne, Jenkins of Hillhead, Richard and Ampthill: a genteel linedancing team, Lord Mackay of Clashfern pursued by a tiny lady train-bearer, and wearing a black cornish pastie on his head, the others capped in black boat-shaped creations, all of them knocking us cold in red and gold. After the usual nodding and cap-doffing - and to our - the officiatMATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

ing flunkey started speaking Norman French. La Reyne se remercie ses bons sujets, accepte leur benevolence, et ansi le veult." This introduced a string of titles of Bills to which Her Majesty had indicated assent.

"Flood Prevention & Land Drainage (Scotland) Act." "La Reyne le veult" Quite how fervently the Queen did wish it was capable of doubt. MPs. cailed by Black Rod to come and watch, stood and gazed from the doorway.

Some were a little mistyeved. For this departing

crowd included many who know they will never watch the ceremony as MPs again.

and a few who do not. I shall miss them. I shall miss Peter Shore (Lab. Bethnal Green and Stepney) who was among the spectators yesterday. He always carried an air of thoughtfulness and probity about him. I shall miss the redoubtable Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C. Lancaster), the last dame to commute by Morris Minor from Lancashire.

l shall miss Andrew Faulds (Lab. Warley E) the bearded

soliloquiser with the Donald Wolfit stage voice; and I shall miss dear, loyal Jill Knight (C. Edgbaston) the most exotically dressed dame in memory, on whose blouses we have based more rude paragraphs on more drab days than I care to remember, but who never

I shall miss the fine, oldfashioned speeches of Sir Russell Johnston (Lib Dem. Inverness Nairn & Lochaber). i shall even miss Mildred Gordon (Lab. Bow & Poplar). Unreconstructed leftwinger she may be, but she was her own woman and she didn't care what you thought.

Out go the characters: the awkward squadders and the absolute bricks, sages and fools, mavericks and loyalists of them defiantly individual. It may be that nostalgia clouds our judgment, that the familiar always looks distinctive, heterogeneous - the unfamiliar a homogenous blur. But it isn't just nostalgia.

Things are changing. On rolls May I. In come the colour-me-beautiful set, the invasion of the bodysnatchers from Planet Vanilla. In come the manicured nails and lobotomised opinions. Decdorised, spayed, neutered, zipped, buttoned, on-message, ideology-screened and quirkfree, they even learn how to

walk "for the cameras" now.
Victory of the video-coachers. Triumph of the orthodontists. I have seen the future, and it smells of hairspray.

BASKS MOULD

Labour puts

child benefit

under review

tumn that savings from abol-

ishing the allowance would be used to increase spending on education. Tony Blair's office

education. Tony Biair's onice said that the party was conducting a review of post-lobenefit as part of a much wider study which "would continue in government".

It emerged last month that

the party was reconsidering the plan because of the elector-

al risks of penalising Middle

England voters. A working party concluded that the

money raised from hitting

Labour is refusing to s whether it will scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds. despite statements last au-

Judge grants wish of family that coma woman should die

By JOANNA BALE

Sir Stephen said all the

consultants, doctors, medical team and family were agreed

that Miss D had no awareness

of her surroundings or herself

and all the evidence was that

there was "no possibility of

any meaningful life whatso-ever. He said he did not feel

he was altering the bound-aries of who could be allowed

to die because Miss D was in

that this patient is suffering

what is rightly termed a living

death. I am driven to the

conclusion in the totality of the

evidence that it is in this

patient's best interests to with-

draw the artificial feeding and

hydration which is keeping

The judgment brought an

"It is a sad and tragic fact

reality in PVS.

her body alive."

A SEVERELY brain-damaged former university student is to return home from hospital to be cared for by her family in the last days of her life after a judge ruled yesterday that she should be allowed to die.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the High Court Family Division, said the woman's mother deserved "everybody's acknowledgment for everything that she has done, her courage is tremendous".

The 20-year-old woman, who has been in a coma for 18 months but whose condition falls short of a permanent vegetative state, will be allowed to starve to death. It was ruled that a feeding tube which had slipped from her body on Tuesday should not

Sir Stephen compared the woman to Tony Bland, the Hillsborough victim whose parents were granted their wish in 1993 that he should die. He said that, like Mr Bland, she was "existing in a state of a living death", and that he believed that "the time merciful relief has

The court was told that the woman, known as Miss D. did not meet the strict guidelines for PVS as defined by the

B informed, call 0800 834865

Royal College of Physicians. immediate response from the Her eyes appear to track moving objects, she flinches if anti-euthanasia group Alert, which said the "barbaric practice" of cutting off life support systems to brain-damaged paa gesture is made and reacts to the feeling of ice on her body. However, according to Pro-fessor David Chadwick, called tients should be made illegal.

Dr Peggy Norris, chair of the group, said: Withholding food and fluids from a person by the NHS Trust, these were "primitive reflexes" within the nervous system. As the woman had "no prospect" of capable of experiencing thirst has been used as a form of torture. To do this to a helpless recovery but could live for patient is cruel."

A spokesman for the NHS another 30 years, her family wanted her to die "with

trust which brought the appli-cation to the High Court said they had sought to act in the "best interests of the patient". Sir Stephen also stressed that he did not believe his ruling would extend the list of cases in which a declaration for withdrawing life support

could be considered. The court recognises that no declaration to permit or sanction so extreme a step could possibly be granted where there is any real possibility of meaningful life continuing to exist."

Tony Bland's father Allan.

of Keighley, West Yorkshire, welcomed the decision. He said: "We had had four years of it. We thought doing it would save other people going through as much pain and suffering as we went through. and perhaps it has."



Winston Churchill yesterday: "It will be a big wrench"

Churchill accepts defeat

WINSTON CHURCHILL the grandson of the wartime leader, has abandoned hope of finding a seat before the election Uill Sherman writes).

The millionaire Tory MP for Davyhulme, in Manchester. lost his seat during boundary changes and failed to win selection in five other constituencies. Although he does not rule out getting a seat during a

by-election, he has made clear that he intends to return to a

career in journalism. Mr Churchill said: "I have been head down in the scrum

trying to find a seat, but I have now given up. This has been my life for the last 27 years and it will be a big wrench to break away from it. I suspect there may be life beyond the divi-

higher earners alone would have been too little to fund the plan for educational allow-Sinn Fein man enters contest

Martin McGuinness of Sinn-Fein, is to contest Mid-Ulster in the general election despite the decision by Roisin Mc-Aliskey to stand for the seat from prison, Gerry Adams, the party's president, indicated. He was responding to the announcement by Miss Mc-Aliskey, whose mother. Bernadette, held the seat from 1969 to 1974. The SDLP will also contest the seat.

Fewer false alarm callouts

The number of false alerts to police stations from burglar alarms has fallen by 12 per cent after the decision by the Association of Chief Police Officers not to respond where alarms have registered seven false calls in a year. However, there were still more than a million wrong calls last year. An Acpo spokesman said that fewer false calls meant a saving of police time.

Police guard councillors

Glasgow City Chambers was guarded by 300 police officers yesterday as councillors met to make big cuts in the social services budget. The huge police presence was in expectation of mass protests similar to those which disrupted the city a week ago. Yesterday, however, the police comfortably outnumbered the dozen people who turned up to picket the morning meeting.

Gucci lover on cruelty charge

Penny Armstrong, 27, a for mer stable girl who is mother of two children by the late fashion millionaire Paolo Gucci, has been charged with causing unnecessary suffer-ing to 13 Arab horses on his former estate at Rusper, West Sussex. Since Signor Gucci's death two years ago, Ms Armstrong and his former wife,

Hamilton and Smith go home to rally support

By Russell Jenkins and Glen Owen

TIM SMITH and Neil Hamilton returned to their constituencies yesterday and attempted to salvage their political careers by rallying party supporters and con-

In Tatton, Cheshire, Mr Hamilton was preparing for the annual general meeting of his local Conservative Association, where some members have already declared that he should resign. Less than 200 miles away in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, Mr Smith was bracing himself for his local AGM where members were predicting he would come under heavy fire.

Mr Hamilton, accompanied by his ever-smiling wife Christine, was at a lunch meeting of the women's association. He suid: "They have been smothering me with love, which is a very pleasurable experience. They are supportive. They know the truth. They have known me for 14 years. I am unsoiled if not unbloodied and certainly unbowed."

Mr Hamilton may not find love and support flowing from every quarter. Robin Estridge. leader of the Conservative But Peter McDowell, the MP's agent, said that a move to deselect him from the floor was not possible because members have to give 28 days for items on the agenda.

In Beaconsfield, Mr Smith managed to retain a smile as he visited Iver Heath County First School, and a child unaware of the controversy asked: "Do you have any friends where you work?" Later, after meeting his

constituency agent Philip Dunville, Mr Smith said: "I am going to fight on. I am going to light the election campaign here, on national issues and local issues." Deidrie Holloway, who

chairs the constituency association, said: There is no question of his position being threatened. We have learned nothing new from these scurrilous reports."

But a lifelong Tory support-er, John Hetherington, 55, owner of The George Hotel in Beaconsfield, said: "Is he asking questions to line his own pockets or for the constituency? I am disgusted that anyone would consider cash for questions. It disillusions me incredibly.

Hamilton defence, page 11 he said there was not."

Sleaze

Continued from page 1. services. He was never paid in

The other three were all officers of the Tory backbench trade and industry committee: Sir Michael Grylls, then the chairman. Mr Hamilton, the vice-chairman, and Mr Smith, the secretary. Sir Michael, during his

evidence, was asked whether it was true that Mr Greer would say to clients they should give him the business because he had access to officers of the Tory trade and industry committee. He re-plied: "I should think every lobbyist does that I do not think there is anything esssentially improper in that because of the whole point about politics is networking

and learning things." Mr Greer is accused of being paid E5,000 cash on a quarterly basis which he col-lected in envelopes, according to a member of the Al Fayed staff who is not named. Mr Greer has consistently denied the allegations.

The papers seen by The Times also include a memorandum from Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, which details a face-to-face meeting with Mr Hamilton and Richard Ryder, the then chief whip. It said: "I pointed out that the Chief Whip and I had asked whether there was any other interest which had not been declared or anything else of which he was aware which could be of embarrassment to the Government and

Jenny, have been fighting for control of the estate.

RELIGIOUS leaders in London have urged churches to debate unemployment, homelessness and poverty in the run-up

Archbishop of Westminster, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, the Anglican Bishop of London, and other leaders advises churches to unite to organise constituency meetings at which the "important issues can be discussed with parliamentary candidates in a mature

leaders, to encourage full participation in

No party political allegiance is stated,

but the letter is in line with the teachings and Dr io Smith, of the Black Christian of Christian socialism, a movement thought to have strongly influenced the Labour leader Tony Blair.

The church leaders urge Christians throughout London to debate the ethics of abortion legislation and genetic engineering. Hospitals, the youth service, education and poverty should also be considered, they say. They call for a "fair taxation system, one which does not unduly burden enterprise and wealth creation yet contributes adequately to the common good".

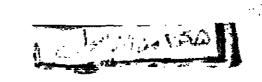
They also call for justice for asylumseekers, and suggest that parliamentary candidates be asked questions on racial integration and protection of the environment.

The signatories, who include the Rev Douglas McBain, of the Baptist Union,

Concerns Group, add: "We ask you to lead prayers for those involved in this election. The desire to serve the people of a constituency and country in Parliament is a noble one. Yet an election is a time of

strain for them and for their families." Mr McBain said: "It would not be right to interpret this as a tract for the Labour Party. The basic call is to stimulate debate and to encourage people to vote and to pray for those seeking to enter Parliament."

Mr McBain said the two main parties could both lay claim to some of the issues highlighted. "It would be true to say that these issues have been taken up by the Christian Socialist Movement but I would have thought that John Major in a religious mood would want to identify with many of them.





Listerine put driver over the drink limit

THE Crown Prosecution Service has won permission to challenge the decision of a magistrates' court not to ban a driver found to be "over the limit" after consuming an excess of mouthwash.

Robert Jowle, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, was breathalysed by police after his Ford Fiesta swerved on a bend of the A5127 at Shen-stone, Staffordshire, and

crossed the road. At Lichfield Magistrates' Court he admitted drink-driving, but said he had become addicted to Listerine mouthwash, unaware that it contained alcohol. Last November the magis-

abour ou

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ider revi

trates fined him £500, ordered him to pay El00 costs and endorsed his licence with nine penalty points. But they decided not to impose an otherwise mandatory driving disqualifi-cation because of his igno-rance of the link between Listerine and alcohol.

Yesterday, at the High Court, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Curtis said they had "no hesitation" in allowing the CPS to appeal against the decision on the ground that Mr Jowle could not have failed to realise that Listerine contained alcohol, in view of his familiarity with

Although Mr Jowle insisted he had not knowingly had any alcohol for more than a year, an analysis at Lichfield police station registered 94 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath — the legal limit is 35mcg. The magistrates heard that He had become addicted to Listerine and had never associated the "lift" it gave him with alcohol. He did not feel out of control

while driving.
The mouthwash was found to contain 26.9 per cent alcohol by volume. There was no direct reference to the presence of alcohol on the bottle. Mr Jowle, who sought further help from Alcoholics Anonymous, has given up drinking

'I'm still torn between two men. My life has been a nightmare'

Sex triangle wife to marry lodger shot by husband

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A JEALOUS husband was facing jail last night as his wife said that she would marry the lodger he shot. Virginia Potter said she planned to marry Keith Thomas, the lodger badly injured by her impotent husband Hans.

Potter, 64, was told by Mr Justice Brown at the Old Bailey that he laced a custodial sentence after being found guilty of unlawful wounding and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. Potter, who was cleared of attempted murder, shot Mr Thomas, 52. after returning to the house

Potter, 58, in a dishevelled state, with the curtains to the spare bedroom drawn. Potter confronted them and

then fired his .22 Winchester fille through the bathroom door at the couple's home in Holmbury St Mary, near Dorking in Surrey. Mr Thom-as was hit in the neck and verely wounded.

Mrs Potter, who now shares er home with Mr Thomas. id yesterday: "My world has allen apart. I'm still torn between two men. My whole tile has been a nightmare

She said she did not blame her common-law husband, had happened. "I don't hold any malice towards Ned. My main worry now is for Keith. The operation to remove the bullet is very dangerous and

I'm scared I may lose him."

Mr Thomas said: "I don't hate

since this happened. I've been portrayed as a wanton woman. Everyone knows my

private life now "

Ned for what he did. I just feel sorry for him." In his summing-up, the judge said that Potter, a commodities trader, deserved sympathy for facing an intolerable situation in his own home". Potter had been living with Virginia Potter for 12 years and the couple had had a "stable and loving relation-

Financial problems during the 1980s forced the Potters to take in lodgers. One of the men who answered their advertisement was Mr Thomas. an electrical engineer, who not only moved in but began an affair with his landlord's wife. Potter eventually agreed to tolerate the relationship.

"Mr Potter was prepared to turn a blind eye to the affair, as Mrs Potter had certain needs in that department, that Potter could not fulfil," Simon Wild, for the prosecution, told the court. Potter said: "I asked them to be discreet because it hurt so very much."

On the evening of the shooting in August last year, the three had dined together and consumed four bottles of wine before Potter set off to his club in the village. On his return he said that he felt he had been



Keith Thomas and Virginia Potter: their affair started after the Potters took in lodgers

badly let down. He accused Mr Thomas of having sex 'and he admitted it".

Mr Thomas denied he had had sexual intercourse with Mrs Potter because he was too drunk, but Potter warned him that he was going to shoot him and went upstairs to his bedroom to fetch his rifle, the court was told. From the stairs, he fired a bullet through the bathroom door, hitting Mr Thomas in the back of the neck.

The bullet fragmented and lodged beside his spine. Surgeons decided it was too dangerous to operate, but Mr Thomas, who suffers headache and dizziness, is hoping to have it removed. Potter, who said he was unsteady on his feet because of diabetes, said the gun went off accidentally when he tripped coming down the stairs. He said he had "absolutely no idea" that his lodger was in the

The court was told that a year earlier Potter fired several shots into the bedroom wall as a warning after finding the couple in bed. The incident was never reported to police, and Potter claimed in court that he had no intention of harming Mr Thomas on this occasion.

Giving evidence, he said he was prepared to tolerate his domestic situation out of concern for his wife. "I am a realist about life. I suppose I did not want to make my wife into a frustrated old lady," he

Potter, who has been living at his son's home in Wimbledon, southwest London, since he was released on bail, will be sentenced on April 18. Yesterday Mrs Potter said: "Ned knows I am with Keith now and he doesn't like it."

Potter still visits his mother who lives next door, and went on holiday to France with Mrs Potter in the run-up to the trial. Potter, who was released on bail, declined to comment

Well-fed dogs save day for parrots

By Adrian Lee

A GANG of parrot thieves were caught after guard dogs spurned their offer of tinned dog food. As the five men bundled the parrots into nylon bags, the owner of the Blean Bird Park, near Canterbury. Kent, was alerted by the two

dogs.
The men, from Liverpool, who were caught as they tried to drive away, were all jailed for between one and two years by Maidstone Crown Court yesterday. Joseph Thompson, 34, and Leslie Parry, 32, both Nigel Poyner, 31, a dog food exporter, of Sefton; and Raymond Bennett, 30, unemployed, of Croxteth, had all denied theft. Paul Carmichael, 33, a taxi driver, of Fazakerley, admitted theft.

Cairns Nelson, for the prosecution, said that the men had arrived at the park by car and had cut their way through fences. They had used boltcutters to break padlocks to enclosures holding 400 birds, worth up to £1,000 each.

"They were in the process of putting the birds in the bags when they were disturbed." Mr Nelson told the court that the dog food they brought with them failed to pacify the tethered rottweilers.

Jailing the men, Judge David Croft, QC, said: "I am quite unable to distinguish one from the other because you all persist in lying about the matter to the bitter end. But it is quite clear it was a planned job. There must have been a reconnaissance and you came fully equipped.

The profits were going to be very large indeed and well into five figures, perhaps more. I cannot say which of you are organisers and which are not. But you were all operating as a team. There must be sentences of some substance."

Thompson, Parry and Bennett were jailed for two years, Poyner for 21 months and Carmichael for a year.

Flowers and tears | Sun is springboard at Billie-Jo service

SCHOOLFRIENDS of Billie-Jo Jenkins wept yesterday at a memorial service held just hours after her loster father was further remanded in custody charged with her

The emotional service in a sports hall at Helenswood comprehensive school, Hastings, was attended by 550 girls who brought hundreds of bunches of spring flowers. The popular 13-year-old, who was her year's representative to the school council, was bludgeoned to death with a metal tent spike in the garden of her home in Hastings live

weeks ago. Sion Jenkins, 39, who was charged with her murder last week, appeared before magistrates to be remanded in custody for a month. Mr Jenkins, who is also charged with obtaining his teaching post by falsifying his academic qualifications, has been suspended as deputy headmaster of the town's William Parker Comprehensive School for Boys pending the criminal

The Rev Roger Gray, the Jenkins's family Baptist minister, attended the remand hearing four hours before addressing the memorial



Billie-Jo: foster father accused of her murder

sevice. He asked the sobbing pupils to pray with him: "Take from us those things that we need to forget about the man-ner of Billie-Jo's death, and enrich the good things that we will be able to look back on in the months and years ahead."

After listening to songs per-formed by some of Billie-Jo's friends, Mr Gray said: You have reflected a genuine and lovely appreciation of a lovely young lady. Nothing can take away from what she has contributed to our lives."

Among the flowers, one message read: "You were the life and soul of the party." Another said: "To Billie-Jo hope-you can find my grandfather. He will look after you."

for early arrivals

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

SPRING has arrived early this year for migrating birds and butterflies. Sandmartins, chiffchaffs, redstarts, stone curlews and even swallows began returning from winter quarters in Africa and the Mediterranean early in March, up to a fortnight

Potter: had asked couple to keep the affair discreet

earlier than usual. "There has been mild weather all along the migration routes," Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, said. "It has been a particularly good year for early chiff-chaffs. Some were around in February. It is a big bonus for them if they can get back early

because they can bag the best breeding territories." Butterflies have emerged sooner than usual from hibernation, according to Patrick Roper, of Butterfly Conservation. "The warm weather has drawn them out. Small tortoiseshells, peacocks and hrimstones are already

Jim Keesing, senior scientific officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, said: "It has been a fairly standard spring, with good shows of magnolia. flowering cherries, forsythia, daffodils and crocuses. If the weather stays warm, we should see bluehells before

the end of April." However, Richard Blackburn, of Lingarden, a daffodil-growing co-operative in Spalding, Lincolnshire, said: "It has been a funny year for daffodils. We began harvesting just in time for Mothering Sunday on March 9, but in other years we have started in February.'

Exactly when spring starts is a moot point. "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?." wrote Shelley. But just how far behind?

According to the Met-eorological Office, spring always arrives on March I and finishes on May 31, whatever the weather and Mother Nature might say. This is little more than a statistical convenience, enabling the year to be divided neatly into four sea-sons of three months each.

The British Astronomical Association fixes the start of spring in the northern hemisphere at the vernal equinox, which this year was at 1355 GMT on Thursday. It will last until the summer solstice, which occurs at 0820 GMT on June 21. Confusingly. June 21 is popularly regarded as midsummer day. Summer will run until the autumn equinox at 2356 GMT on September 22.



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Crime novels make killing at auction

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

n forum

FIRST editions of novels are fetching huge prices within a year or two of publication. Sales for modern novelists are particularly buoyant, with dealers reporting that people are buying books for investment rather than to read.

The demand for crime fiction is insatiable. A private collector paid £1,323 on Thursday for a first edition of Dick Francis's first thriller Dead Cert, which was published to 1500 the 1500 three Cert, which was published to 1500 the 1500 three Cert, which was published to 1500 the 1500 three Cert, which was published to 1500 the 1500 three Cert, which was published to 1500 three Cert, wh 1962 at 15 shillings (75p). The £300 estimate at Bloomsbury Book Auctions in London reflected that its dustjacket was showing its age; pristine copies sell for as much as

Jane Adams's The Greenway and Priscilla Masters's Winding Up The Serpent, each published in 1995, sold for up to £90 and £150 respectively. Minette Walters's The (cehouse, published in 1992 at £12.99, is selling for as much as £700. A rare hardback of Irvine Walsh's 1994 Trainpotting, which inspired the



film, can excite collectors into parting with up to £1,000. Christiaan Jonkers, an Oxford specialist in rare books. said: "We are seeing a miniboom in ultra-modern first editions." People frequently asked him whether a purchase was a good investment: "I advise collectors not to huy

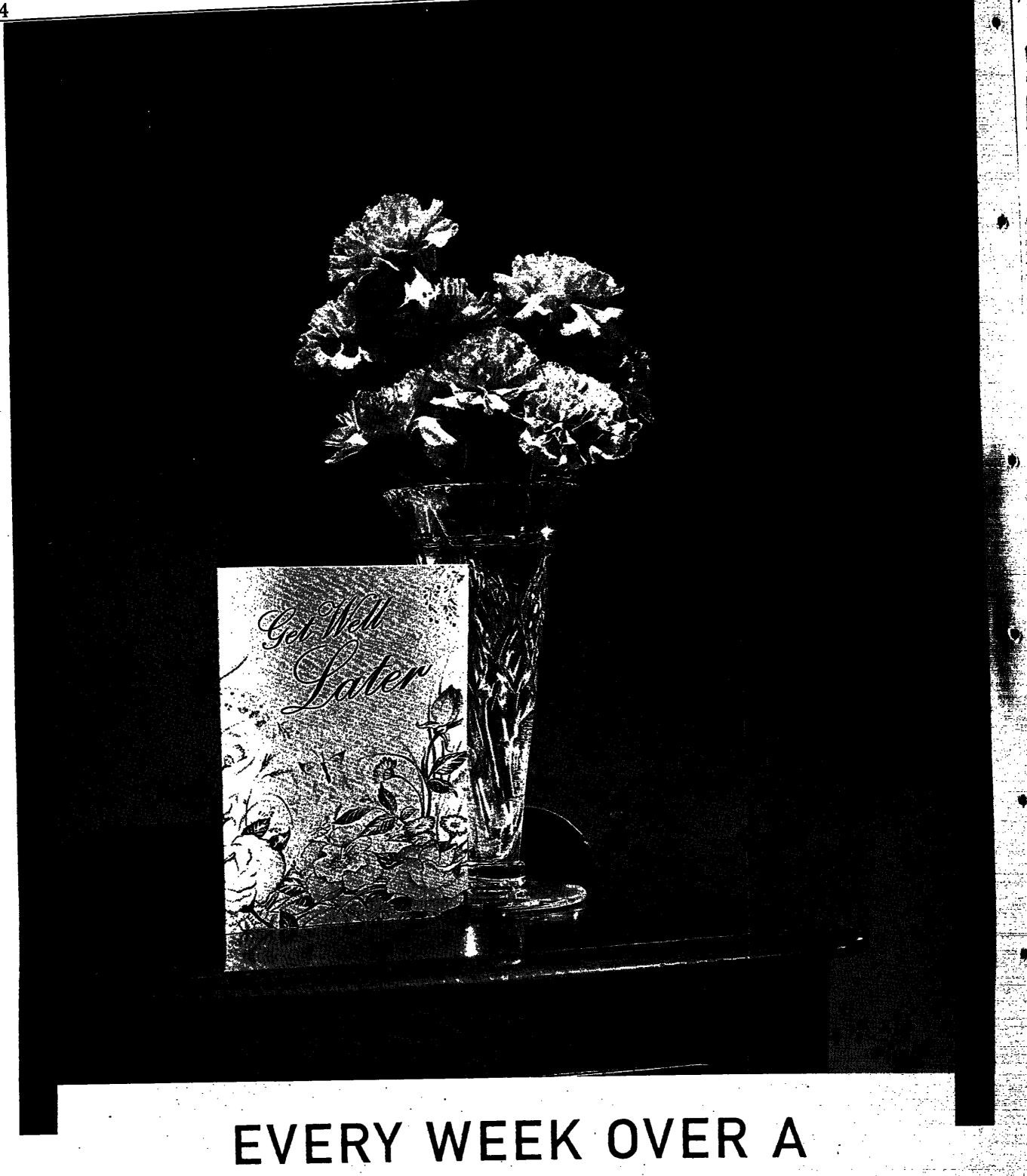
purely for investment, but to enjoy the book." Authors whose work is

known from television, such as Colin Dexter of Inspector Morse fame, are all the more collectible. As most contemporary authors have signing sessions to promote their books, autographed copies

Nigel Williams Rare Books in central London, said he had sold a copy of Trainspotting for £1.000. It was one of 100 hardback versions produced for libraries after the original 3.000 paperbacks, which resell for about E195. A copy of Nick Hornby's 1994 Fever Pitch had sold for E300.

A copy of Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children sold at Bloomsbury Book Auctions on Thursday for £150, Rupert Powell, a director of Bloomsbury, said that collectors were seeking the high points of 20th-century literature and will pay extraordinary prices

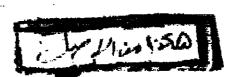
to get them".
First editions of Francis's Dead Cert make rare appearances on the market - perhaps once a year. Competition for Dead Cert was fierce. Francis, the jockey turned crime writer who has written a thriller a year since Dead Cert, said yesterday: "If only I had kept 20 then, when they were first out. I had to buy one



THOUSAND NHS OPERATIONS ARE CANCELLED.

Last year, 52,331 NHS operations were cancelled. And it wasn't because the patients suddenly got better. Government underfunding has meant that one in six hospital beds have been lost since 1990. There are 50,000 fewer nurses than in 1990. No wonder so many people have been waiting over a year and a half for treatment Government cuts are destroying the National Health Service. As you queue up to vote on polling day, spare a thought for the 72 year-old lady who needed an urgent cancer operation. She waited ten weeks.





Injunction over Beatles auction

McCartney takes legal step to block Penny Lane sale

SIR Paul McCartney obtained an emergency injunction at the High Court yesterday to stop the lyrics to the Beatles song Penny Lane being sold at

The first handwritten draft of the song, a No I single in 1966, would have been one of the top lots in a sale at Bonhams of Beatles items. Bidding will take place in Japan and London today and the song lyrics had been expected to fetch up to £50,000.

Sir Paul obtained another injunction last year against Lily Evans, the widow of the group's road manager Mai Evans, after she tried to sell

Sir Paul cannot recall guitag described as his

the lyrics of With A Little Help from My Friends at Sotheby's. The former Beatle took the view that the lyrics were his work and that no one else

£150,000 and was said to have

been owned by Sir Paul throughout much of the

Beatles career". But Sir Paul's representative has told the

saleroom that the singer "has

no recollection of ever having been presented with the guitar

you describe or of ever playing it". There was no comment

Penny Lane is a real street in

Liverpool, and the barber's

shop mentioned in the song is

being sold in the auction for

£195,000. It goes under the

hammer with vacant posses-

sion upon completion of the

sale fut an amendment points

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expires on May 9. En-

Beatles' hometown of

from Sir Paul yesterday.

The owner of the Penny Lane lyrics, which were scribbled in blue ink on both sides of a piece of yellow paper, is unknown. The first side contains 16 lines of the song and the reverse shows II lines of the concluding verse and chorus. Bonhams said it would not

should benefit financially.

be contesting the injunction. Pop sales have led to problems for auction houses as specialists try to verify the authenticity of memorabilia from owners cashing in on nostalgia for the Sixties.

Alex Crum Ewing, one of the specialists in charge of the sale, said yesterday that he assumed that the reason that Sir Paul had sought an injunction was "because he believes he is still the person who owns the lyrics and he never gave them away. That is a reasonable claim to make."

There was no question of the lyrics being a fake, Mr Crum Ewing said. They will remain in the firm's safe until the matter is resolved. Bonhams was "just the piggy in the

Today's auction will be in Japan but bids, for about 300 lots, will be relayed from London where proceedings will be shown on a large screen. Yesterday, people were already queueing on the pavement in Tokyo, hoping to get seats.

Various amendments, some purely technical, have been made to a total of 33 items. An autograph by John Lennon has been withdrawn together with two guitars signed by George Harrison. Another instrument, described in the catalogue as "Paul McCartney's custom Hofner 500/1 violin bass-guitar" has been the subject of another amendment. It had been expected to make between £100,000

Steele seeks more than sixpence

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

TOMMY STEELE, the song and dance man who endeared himself to millions in the film Half A Sixpence, is selling his mansion in southwest London for between E5 million and

ElO million. Montrose House, at Petersham, near Richmond upon Thames, has been his family home for nearly 30 years. The millionaire, now 61, who grew up in a terraced house in Bermondsey, south London, is looking for somewhere small-er for himself and his wife, Anne. Their only child,

Emma, is 27. Ian Stewart, of Savills, the estate agent handling the sale, said yesterday: This is the finest house to come on the market in the area for many. years." Montrose House was built in the late 17th century for Sir Thomas Jenner, a Roman Catholic political lawyer. It is named after Caroline Maria, Dowager Duchess of Montrose, who bought the

mansion in the 1830s. The house, with swimming pool and squash court to keep the fitness fanatic in Steele happy, has six main bedrooms, a cottage annexe with two more bedrooms and a staff flat. It stands behind wrought-iron gates in two and half acres of grounds.

Teenage burglars took £1m

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A TEENAGE burglary gang were all in youth custody last night after a two-year crime wave that involved property worth £l million.

The last member to be locked up, a 16-year-old boy. was sent to a young offenders' institution for 21 months after admitting four break-ins in Oldham, near Manchester, and asking for 200 more to be taken into consideration.

He showed no emotion as he was sentenced. The rest of the gang are already in custody. Superintendent Graham Fox. head of Chadderton police in Oldham, said: "Prison seems to hold no fears for this young man. It is where all his friends are and he will be quite looking forward to see-

ing them again."
The seven youths who were esponsible for a total of about 1,000 raids became known as the Hamburglars because, within minutes, they had sold their hauls cheaply for cash to buy hamburgers, clothes and trainers. Property worth up to £1,000 was often sold for as little as E20. Much of it has

never been recovered. Robert Elias, for the youth sentenced yesterday, said:
The scale of offending by this diminutive schoolboy almost beggars comprehension."

Wine can leave you nothing but gums

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WINE tasting can eat your teeth away to nothing, dentists warn experts today.

Researchers from Guy's

hospital describe the case of a wine merchant whose teeth were so eroded that his fillings protruded from his gums like metal pegs. The 52-yearold merchant had tasted an average of 30 wines a day since 1959, rinsing the liquid around the mouth to reach

every corner of the palate before spitting it out. Shahid Chaudhry and colleagues, who report the case in the British Dental Journal, say that the habit of sloshing the liquid around the mouth probably accounted

for the damage to his teeth. The problem is not decay caused by bacteria, but acid in the wine eating away the

When the merchant first went to Guy's in 1982, it was calculated that his teeth had suffered 245,000 acidic exposures over the previous 23 years. When he retired in 1989, the tooth erosion

Mr Chaudhry said: "Our advice to anyone who tastes or drinks a lot of wine - or other alcoholic drink - is that they should clean their teeth thoroughly twice a day and go to their dentist regularly for a check-up."

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The first handwritten draft of Penny Lane - No 1 in 1966 - was valued at £50,000

Spector wins fight over pop classic

PHIL SPECTOR, the multimillionaire American record producer, won a High Court action yesterday over the rights to his debut hit. To

Know Him is to Love Him. Mr Spector, who was not in court, will receive hundreds of thousands of pounds in royalties after winning back his copyright interest in the single, which has sold more than a million copies. An inquiry into the amount due will be held. The song, written when he was 18, launched his career and is now a karaoke favourite 39 years on.

Mr Justice Ferris ruled in favour of the reclusive 56-yearold's claims against Bourne Music, a British company. Mr Spector, who lives in California, had argued that a 28-year copyright assignment under American law, in which rights were transferred to the publishers Warman Music and a licence granted to Bourne, expired in 1986. Bourne, which refused to accept that it no longer had rights, had not paid any royalties since the start of 1987. The judge ruled that, when the 28-year term expired, the



Spector: he can expect substantial royaltics

Spector in the same way that one speaks of land reverting to a freeholder on the expiration of a lease. No actual transfer

. is required." During an earlier hearing, the judge, who did not recall the song, was offered a recording of it. The song was first though Mr Spector played almost every instrument, and reached the top of the Ameri-can charts in 1958. It went to

No 2 in Britain the next year. A member of Mr Spector's legal team said: "There was an important principle at stake and I am sure Mr Spector will

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Call for Holocaust victims to share £39m of Nazi gold

VICTIMS of the Holocaust should receive gold valued at £39 million as a final payment for Jewish treasures looted by the Nazis and recovered after the Second World War, a report said yesterday. The five and a half tonnes of gold had

been earmarked for ten countries whose treasuries were plundered by the Nazis. The Holocaust Education Trust said the gold should go to the victims, their families or groups caring for them. The

trust's report said that the haul of gold consisted of jewellery, religious artefacts and gold teeth taken from individual Jews and melted down. The Tripartite Gold Com-

mission set up at the end of the Second World War by Britain. France and the United States had the task of dividing the loot. Gold from the treasuries of defeated countries was due to be paid back, but personal possessions were meant to go towards helping refugees.

The trust said that many of the personal belongings had been melted down into gold bars and went instead to



Malcolm Rifkind and Greville Janner: talks this month

governments such as Albania and Poland. Greville Janner, chairman of the trust and retiring Labour MP for Leicester West, said: "People who lost most from Nazi brutality were denied a proportion of the restitution owed to them.

This gold belongs to the victims of Nazism and should be handed over directly or indirectly to the sufferers from Nazism or to their heirs or to the organisations that care for them. Not one gold bar has been distributed to any individual or the family of any individual who suffered.* The report said it was not necessarily an intention by governments to deprive refugees but, in the chaos at the end of the

bars could now never be proved. It added that even if all the remaining gold was returned to victims, it would have been less than the amount seized from individuals. Last month, after pressure from campaigners. Britain and America, which are storing the gold, agreed to freeze distribution of what was left.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign

Secretary, told Mr Janner

war, errors were made. The

report admits, however, that

the origin of individual gold

impossible to ascertain what went into the commission's gold pool. He was sympathetic to the idea that individuals should benefit and promised that no decisions would be made until research was

The trust believes the gold should be split between the World Jewish Restitutional Organisation and a non-lewish organisation that would help other Nazi victims. Mr Janner said if the three Allied countries agreed to hand the gold to victims, the ten recipient countries — Albania, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, The Netherlands, Italy. Luxembourg, Poland and Yugoslavia — would follow.

The trust's demands were echoed by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which said it was unfair for governments to benefit from Jewish losses. Neville Nagler, the board's director-general, wants an inquiry into the source of the gold. "Money could be made available to Holocaust victims particularly in eastern Europe, where organisations are trying to develop communities



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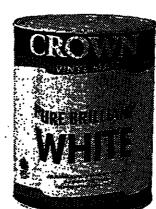
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Counter attack as Tesco sets great store on Ireland

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IN THE year that the Irish Republic celebrates the 75th anniversary of its independence from Britain, the nation from across the Irish Sea.

British supermarket chains and leading high-street stoics are storming in to transform town and city centres. Tesco snapped up 70 stores from the Republic's Quinnsworth and Crazy Prices chain yesterday in the latest example of the changes which threaten to

fuel anti-English sentiment. The centres of Dublin and Cork, the republic's two largest cities, have started to resemble British cities. Grafton Street, one of the smartest place to shop in the heart of Dublin, boasts a large branch of Marks & Spencer ciose to Laura Ashley, Warehouse and HMV.

The British march down Irish high streets has raised: alarm bells in political circles with fears over the survival of local chains. Mary Harney, the leader of the opposition Progressive Democrats, said: British invasion of the retail market. Walk through Patrick Street in Cork and you think you are in England. Walk through the new Jervis shop-

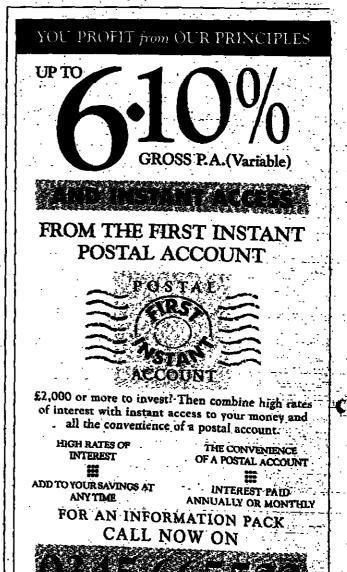
ping centre in Dublin and you know you are in England." Ms Harney insisted that she was not objecting to competion, but feared that the can't still the Bries & home she said but called

The Irish economy is g ing at 7 per cent a year. British than Irish stores be

competitive market. Traditionalists' in Thiblin were appalled when M&S which had traded from a dull modern block on Grafton Street, recently took over the creeking but charming premises of Brown Thomas, Ireland's answer to Harvey Nichols, for a £40 million

the 19th-century shopfront. Brown Thomas now has a modern shop across the road. Grafton Street, the Jervis centre has the republic's first branches of Debenhams and

Business, page 29



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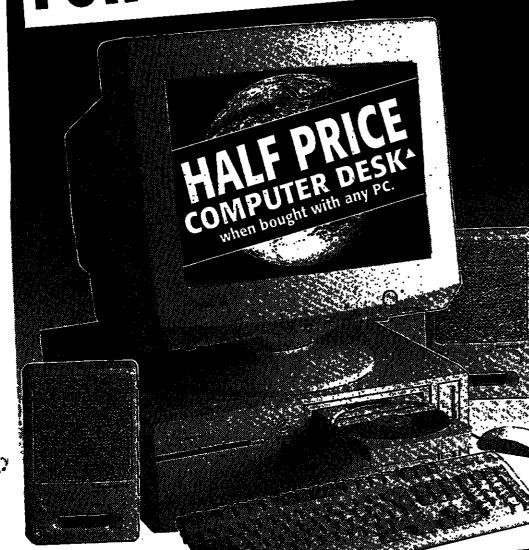
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TEN THE COME

Cleric who created Thomas the Tank Engine dies at 85



Leading from the front the Rev Wilbert Awdry at the Dean Forest Railway, where he was president

THE Rev W. Awdry had his own explanation for the reason why many Anglican clergymen were so fascinated by steam trains. He said: "Both parties are still the best means of getting people to their destination.

Mr Awdry died yesterday, aged 85. His creation, Thornas the Tank Engine. has yet to reach a final destination. The plucky little engine known to generations of children around the world will continue to have adventures written by Mr Awdry's son, Christopher, for whom the first stories were created.

The characters and simple, et compelling, storylines have thrilled parents and children in equal measure for more than half a century, rooted in the clergyman's strong moral sense. In an age dominated by more sophisticated tales, the spin-offs have included animated film versions, videos narrated by Ringo Starr, plus plastic books to read in the bath and others which illustrate a point with a sound effect.

Wilbert Awdry, a widower, died at his home in Stroud, Gloucestershire, where he had been bed-ridden with osteoporosis for some time. He began the series of stories

Thomas the Tank Engine: runaway success for 50 years

in 1943 and wrote the first 26 before Christopher, one of his three children, took over.

Britt Alicroft, deputy chairman and co-founder of the company which licenses Thomas products worldwide, first produced an animated version after meeting the author during a television programme on the Bluebell Railway. Yesterday she said: "I first met Wilbert on a wet train platform nearly 20 years ago. That meeting changed my life and I took Wilbert's creation on a world tour.

Thomas the Tank Engine was a wonderful inspiration and we know it bought happiness and joy to millions of children across the globe. Everyone at our company extends their deepest sympa-

thy to Wilbert's family." Diana Awdry, Christopher Awdry's wife, said that her father-in-law had never been able to comprehend the extent of Thomas the Tank Engine's appeal. "He never really understood it, but he was certainly very pleased with the success. We'll all remember him with a great deal of affection. He was a very Christian character and a very

loving father in law." The book series would be continued by her husband, she promised. As a boy, Christopher insisted on accurate repetition of the bedtime stories told to him by his father night after night, so his father wrote them down, accompanied with scribbled faces on the engine

When the dergyman's wife noticed the stories scribbled on the backs of circulars, she had them sent to a literary

Mr Awdry remained fiercely protective of the books, despite handing over control of the storylines to his son. He fought for them to stay true to the original spirit and railed against plans to improve women's standing by upgrading the role of female

carriages. His writing was eventually recognised with an OBE in the 1996 New Year's Honours list A spokeswoman for the publisher, Reed Books, said: He wrote stories which had wonderful appeal to children The engines had so many characters to them which brought them to life, yet they remained vehicles which the children loved. They had equal appeal to both boys and

Mr Awdry was involved with many rail preservation groups. A spokesman for the Dean Forest Railway Company, of which he was a president, said of his death: 'ir's a great shame and a sad

"He'd been a long-standing enthusiast of the railways and it seemed quite a common thing for men of the cloth to be interested in that sort of

The Dean Forest Railway Company reopened a disused line in Gloucestershire, and named one of its three steam locomotives Wilbert after the

The train became the subject of the thirty-eighth book in the Thomas the Tank Engine series, Wilbert the Forest Engine, written by Christopher Awdry. The group's spokesman added: He used to come down here to sign his books, and he seemed to be involved with almost every rail preservation group going."

Obituary, page 27

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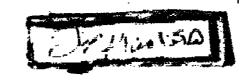
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Fixed terms for repeat offenders become law

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE most sweeping changes in sentencing policy this century became law yesterday with the introduction of automatic minimum sentences for repeat violent offenders, persistent burglars and dealers in hard

Curbs on child-sex offenders also became law as part of a package resulting from the Dutch auction between the Conservatives and Labour over pre-election legislation. Convicted sex offenders will be subject to extended supervision on release for up to a maximum of ten years, and a register of sex offenders will be created. They will have to tell the police every time they move: those failing to register a change of address within 14 days may be jailed for up to six months and ordered to pay a £5,000 fine.

The changes came as Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, prepared to appear in a live debate on law and order in front of a studio audience on LWT's Dimbleby programme tomorrow.

It is planned that automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and serious sexual and violent offenders will come into force in October. But Mr Howard has been forced to accept changes to his plan for automatic three-year minimum sentences on third-time burglars and seven years for third-time dealers in hard

He accepted a Lords amendment giving judges greater discretion in sentencing. Judges will be able to give a lesser sentence if the court considers the minimum sentence to be "unjust in all the circumstances"

Mr Howard claims the amendment drives a coach and horses through his original aim, which was that only in exceptional circumstances would judges not have to impose the minimum sentence for domestic burglars and dealers in Class A drugs. The Conservative Party manifesto will promise to reverse the Lords amendment.

The new sentences for repeat burglars are unlikely to come into operation until October 1999, because the Prison Service must first build the new jails needed to house offenders. It has been estimate ed that 12 new jails could be needed to meet an estimated increase in the prison population.

Another measure creates two new offences designed to tackle stalking and other forms of harassment, including nuisance neighbours and racist abuse. Offenders who make people fear for their safety face five years' imprisonment, while those whose harassment is not life-threatening face up to six months.

Under other measures, the Parole Board, rather than the Home Secretary, will have responsibility for the release of juveniles convicted of murder. This includes the two boys in the James Bulger case.

Other measures that became law include a police Bill setting up a national crime squad and creating a Criminal Records Agency.



Harvest in Provence, painted in summer 1888, during Van Gogh's Arles period. It is to be auctioned at Sotheby's in June

Rare Van Gogh watercolour may make £8m

A WATERCOLOUR by Van Gogh not exhibited in public since 1948 is expected to fetch £8 million at auction this summer.

Sotheby's, which will offer it on June 24, de-scribed the panoramic landscape, Harvest in Provence, as the artist's most important work on paper in private hands. Melanie Clore, Euro-pean head of the Impressionist and Modern Art Department, said it was hard to predict what such a rare work could make, but at £8 million,

it would be "the most valuable modern picture sold by auction in Europe since 1990".

The scene was painted in June 1888 just outside Arles, where Van Gogh had settled that February. Ms Clore said: "It expresses his first erraptured response to the colours of the South of Europe in suppose and its the original. of France in summer, and is the original version of the famous oil of the same subject, now in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam." The watercolour, bought by J. B. A. Kessler, a collector of Impressionist art who died in 1983, is being sold by a trust.

Although Van Gogh painted about 1,000 works on paper, the number of fully finished works as opposed to studies, is probably no more than 50. This image, a watercolour over pen and ink measuring 48cm by 60cm, was painted a few days before the oil work, which is cometimes known as La Charette Bleue. In a letter of June 1888 to his brother, Theo, Van Gogh described the oil as his best work during his Arles period. As he wrote in another letter that summer: "I must draw a great deal ... Things here have so much line and I want to get

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DIAL-A-PHONE

Scratchcard addict is hungry for a win

By Paul Wilkinson her to pay £270 comp

A WOMAN is so addicted to lottery scratchcards that she even bought them with money intended for a hypnosis course to cure her of the habit, a court

has been told. Beverley Miles, 37, often goes without food to buy the cards out of her dole money. In court at Harrogate, North Yorkshire, she admitted stealing a fridge, a chest of drawers and a coffee table from her rented flat to finance her spending of up to £60 a week. After hearing of her addiction, magistrates declined to im-

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to her landlords.

Peter Scott, for the prosecution, said Miles told police that she planned to replace the furniture with money from the win she is convinced is just around the corner. In fact, she has won only £50 twice.

Peter Ollie, in mitigation. said shops near her home had banned her to help her to beat the craving. Afterwards Miles said: "I wish it had never been invented. The addiction has taken over. The lure of the big win keeps me hooked. Now I am hundreds of pounds in debt and have to rely on my



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Vationwide_

Major is to copy Kinnock's 1992 campaign tactic

TORY strategists are preparing to copy Neil Kinnock's general election campaign tactic of making greater use of television and regional media, rather than national newspapers, to try to put across the party message.

Senior figures in the party admit that the first week of John Major's general election campaign has been "intensely disappointing and that a fresh start needs to be made

Although they said that the real campaign would not start until next month, they admitted that they were anxious to get more positive coverage before Easter. The long cam-paign was intended to give the Tories chance to wrong-foot Labour but a senior Tory figure conceded that "no

punches have landed yet". There was a last-minute change of plan yesterday when more sleaze allegations put the Tories on the defensive for the third day. They cancelled plans to use the election battle-bus to take national newspaper journalists on Mr Major's trip to Gatwick iarport, and instead invited selected national news agency and television reporters.

Sources at Conservative Central Office gave two con-

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flicting explanations for the late change. One was that there were logistical problems in taking large numbers of journalists on the train to Gatwick. Another was: "We did not want the Prime Minister's visit to eclipse our launch of a new poster." However, strategists were delighted at television film of Mr Major's helicopter flying over one of

the poster sites. They made clear that the tactic to make more use of regional media would be similar to that used by Mr Kinnock during his unsuccessful 1992 campaign, al-though they inisted that the Prime Minister was not "run-

Election escape

A local weekly newspaper has declared itself an electionfree zone where readers can escape from politicians. The Rotherham Advertiser in South Yorkshire, where MP Denis MacShane has a majority of 17,561, has decided not to bore its audience with a forgone conclusion. The Yorkshire Dales Radio, which planned to launch on April 28, has postponed it to May 4 to avoid having to ning away" from newspaper journalists, a charge levelled at Mr Kinnock.

Mr Major is determined to meet the public and answer questions from voters but is said to be "irritated by the sleaze questions" that have dominated national newspapers in the past three days. The Prime Minister is said

to be annoyed that newspaper coverage of the opening days of the campaign was also dominated by Labour-initiated outrage over the decision to end Commons business six weeks before the election.

"We don't think that national newspapers are a good way of putting our message across. There seems to be a great interest in trivia and newspapers have been taking the Labour agenda hook, line and sinker," a senior source said. Phone-ins are a very good way of getting the mess-

National newspapers have been excluded from travelling with Mr Major during the past two days' campaigning, his campaign. although senior Tories insist that it has been done for logistical reasons. Mr Major was said to have been angered by newspaper photographs suggesting that his wife, Norma. was unhappy and of



pictures of him holding a detachable steering wheel, with headlines to the effect that the wheel had fallen off

Tories say that impressive figures on crime, public borrowing, unemployment, inflation and eceonomic growth merited more national newspaper attention. They are also annoyed that the decision to

drop key sections of the Crime (Sentences) Bill and Education Bill had been portrayed as a defeat by Labour.

Next week, national newspaper journalists will accompany the Prime Minister on three regional trips, which will involve a number of radio phone-ins. "We hope we can put all this sleaze behind us and make a fresh start." a

senior Tory said. This week has not gone as well as we had hoped it would, despite a great deal of good economic news."

A party strategist conceded that a visit to the MacLaren Formula One plant in Surrey had turned into "a disaster when the racing driver David Coulthard's car appeared mi-nus its wheels. "We do have to plan these better in future."

Not so much a national icon as plain John from Brixton

s with a distress call from a leaking boat. the essentials of the radio phone in are name and location. Thus it was that, 15 minutes late and shortly after a commercial for something that cures dehydrated skin and tired eyes", John from Brixton hit airwaves yesterday

Marie from Putney, Marion from Palmer's Green. Marvin from Hendon all sounded like old hands at this game, but it was John from Brixton's first appearance in phone in land since he called the general election using his alias, Prime Minister from Downing Street. It will be far from his last radio show, for the phone in is likely to become John's electronic soapbox in this campaign: he is coming soon to a radio station near you, as are Tony from Islington and Paddy from

John's late appearance was caused by a technical hitch in the link to Downing Street, so he had to be driven to the LBC studios. There were worse conse quences _ than | could | be imagined at the time, for the overrun delayed the next programme, hosted by Robbie Vincent, a gravelvoiced presenter admired by no less a listener than

"Robbie Vincent has a million fans," John conceded, gushing to retrieve the vote of irate Vincent fans. 'He's a national icon." John sounded as if he wished the same could be said of himself. A PR man for LBC. subsequently told me that he would "push this line to the tabloids", presumably hoping to turn John's remark into a self-fulfilling prophecy: outside London, vincent's name is about as familiar as a safe Tory seat.

John's appearance on LBC Breakfast, which is presented by Caroline Righter and Nick Lloyd (aka Sir Nicholas Lloyd, former Editor of the Express), brought no spectacu-lar confessions, although when another John, from Highgate, asked about family breakdown, John from Brixton said: "I'm prepared to take the blame for most things that happen in this country but fto blame me for family break-up is a bit

Sadly, none of the myriad things for which John will take the blame was raised by yesterday's callers. On the non-publication of Sir Gordon Downey's cash-forquestions report, John repeated the party line that he had no right to interfere. with the timing. Nick Lloyd asked him: "Aren't you at decent man surrounded by sleazy MPs?" John gave no direct reply, so whether he is either of these things remains unresolved.

Most of the callers asked questions about the usual national issues: people who live in London like to think that theirs is a national agenda. But Sheila from the City, MD of a recruitment company and member of the campaign to save Bart's hospital, did wonder whether the new "super-hospital" in east London would ever be built.

This project involves the Private Finance Initiative and John admitted that progress with the PFI had been "slow". Indeed he thought that primary healthcare in London was



RADIO BARNARD

was elsewhere in the country. But on Thursday, he said, he had been at St dington and had seen "an-Interventional Magnetic Resonance Scanner", a startling technical reference for

8.30 in the morning. John is undoubtedly good at radio. The intimacy of the electronic soapbox enables him to play the chat-in-a-pub card. Whereas his attempts at bluntness in the Commons can appear forced, on radio he suggests bluntness but actually uses polite circumspection. which suits him better.

When Vic of Fulham asked yesterday about Gulf War syndrome and BSE, suggesting that "everything appears to have been hidden". John replied: "I think that is rather an improbable point, to put it bluntly." Bluntly? Clearly John of Brixton has much to learn about bluntness, as applied to the radio phone-in.



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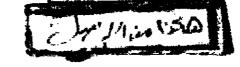
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ELECTION 97 11

THE Tory MP Neil Hamilton

feit betrayed by the party high

command, which forced him

to resign as a minister and

face the battle to clear his

submission to the Downey

inquiry, a copy of which has

been seen by The Times,

portrays a figure bewildered by the turn of events in October 1994 when The

Guardian published allega-tions that he had been paid £2,000 to table Commons

questions by Mohamed Al

Fayed. His frustration was

divided between Mr Al Fayed

and the leadership which

pledged support but then

withdrew it when the media

In uncompromising lan-guage Mr Hamilton, the MP

for Tatton, vents his fury at the

way Mr Al Fayed's accusa-

tions were accepted at face

value by The Guardian. He

says the allegations were pub-

became

campaign

Mr Hamilton's 30,000-word

name on his own.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 22 1997

Hamilton evidence

reveals anger over

'betrayal' by party

lished a month after the

Egyptian-born businessman

lost his fight against the

Department of Trade and Industry over his application

The first cash payments

were allegedly made to Mr

Hamilton in 1985 and the last in 1989. Mr Hamilton writes:

Why did he wait nine years

after the conversation with lan

Greer, which he alleged so

shocked him...seven years

after allegedly making his first cash payment? Why did he wait five years after his last?"

Mr Hamilton attacks the

terms of reference of the

inquiry which mean he has to

prove that the allegations

The MP maintains the big-

gest flaw in the Al Fayed

argument is the lack of witnesses. He [Al Fayed] is

careful to emphasise that he

and I were alone and no one

would have seen the money

Mr Hamilton is scathing

being given," he writes.

against him are untrue.

Plot thickens for MPs under investigation

MORE details of the allega-tions against MPs accused of taking cash for asking parlia-mentary questions and lobbying were disclosed yesterday with the publication of evidence given by the following MPs to the Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey. His inquiry covers events from 1986 to 1990. Neil Hamilton, 48, Tory

MP for Tatton since 1983, majority 15,860. Government Whip, 1990; Corporate Affairs Minister 1992-94. The allegations: that he took payments of E10,000 from

the lobbyist Ian Greer that were declared neither to ministers whom he lobbied nor to the taxman; that he told the President of the Board of Trade, that he had no financial relationship with Mr Greer; that he took thousands of pounds in envelopes from Mr Al Fayed while pushing his interests in Parliament that he took undeclared free hospitality from Mr Al Faved and from a tobacco company; that he took gifts instead of cash to keep down his tax bill.

thing except taking cash in envelopes from Mr Al Fayed. Tim Smith, 49, Tory MP for Beaconsfield since 1982, majority 23,864. Northern Ireland Minister, Jan-Oct 1994.

The allegations: that as

Mr Hamilton admits every-

vice-chairman of the Conservative trade and industry committee he took undeclared payments between 1986 and 1989 of at least £18,000 in cash from Mr Al Fayed, some of it handed to him in envelopes and some delivered to his home: that in return he asked 17 questions about the House of Fraser takeover; that he he signed early day motions and proposed an adjournment de-bate on the takeover; that he declared the money to the taxman only as part of a larger sum earned by a partnership run by him and his wife; that he admitted to the Cabinet Secretary in September 1994 that he had taken the money



Tim Smith at a school yesterday, hoping to avoid comparison with Humpty Dumpty

from Mr Fayed but did not resign until October 20, when The Guardian published its cash-for-questions allegations. Mr Smith admits that he took at least £18,000 and failed to declare it, but says he entered an interest in the Register of Members' Interests for two weeks at the end of the financial relationship. He says he proposed an adjournment debate on the House of

 Fraser takeover before taking any payment. He says he was acting in the public interest. Michael Brown, 45, Tory

MP for Brigg and Clee-

thorpes, entered Parliament 1979, majority 6,413. Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry, 1989-90; Minister of State, Foreign Office, 1990-92; Parliamentary Private Secretary to Northern Ireland Secretary, 1992-93; assistant whip, 1993-94.

The allegations: that he received three undeclared payments totalling £6,000 from Ian Greer Associates (IGA) in 1988 and 1989 for promoting the interests of United States Tobacco at meetings with ministers and in Parliamentary questions and early day mo-

tions; that he failed to declare the payments to the taxman until October 1996 when they became public knowledge. Mr Brown admits receiving

£6,000 in 1988 from IGA as a commission for introducing US Tobacco, and that he failed to register the payment. He admits failing to inform civil servants and ministers of his financial interest when he was lobbying on behalf of US Tobacco, and failing to declare the payments for tax.

Sir Michael Grylls, 63, Tory MP for Surrey North West, not standing for reelection. Chairman, Conserva-tive Trade and Industry Committee, 1981-97.

The allegations: that he was regularly paid undeclared sums in cash, totalling about £86,000, to provide parliamen tary services for clients of lan Greer Associates: that he omit-ted his financial relationship with Mr Greer from the Register of Members' Interests; that he lied to the Select Committee on Members' Interests in 1990; that he steered companies towards Mr Green

to secure financial gain. Sir Michael admits that he was receiving payments from Mr Greer during the period when he was helping Mr. Greer's client, Mr Al Fayed. He admits that he told the Select Committee on Members' Interests in 1990 that he had made only three introductions of companies, although the real figure was six. He admits the regular flow of money was only notionally related to "introductions" or his work on behalf of the Unitary Tax Campaign.

Sir Andrew Bowden, 60, Tory MP for Brighton Kemptown since 1970, majority 3,056.

The allegations: that while he was helping Mr Al Fayed he was paid 55,319 towards election expenses by Ian Greer for the 1987 campaign; that he failed to declare the payments either in the register or as election expenses; that he received a further undeclared payment of £500; that in 1987, Mr Al Fayed met Sir Andrew and agreed to pay £5,000 in cash for information from Michael Land, vice-chairman of the MP's constituency association and a former employee of Lonrho - the company in dispute with Mr Al Fayed over the House of Fraser.

Sir Andrew admits receiving £5,319 from Mr Greer but denies it was related to his parliamentary lobbying for Mr Al Fayed. He says the other £500 was for lectures given to Mr Greer's clients. He denies receiving £5,000 from Mr Al Fayed.

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHEN

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE timetable of the cash-forquestions affair, which has led to the resignation of two government ministers: "

Neil Hamilton with his defence documents yesterday

February, 1989: Tim Smith. the MP for Beaconsfield, receives a letter from Tiny Rowland, former chairman of Lonrho, accusing him of being in the pay of Mohamed Al Fayed Mr Smith swiftly severs the three-year business arrangement and seeks a meeting with David Waddington, then the Chief Whip, and tells him he had received payments from Mr Al Fayed. He is advised to declare them.

January 1994: Mr Smith is appointed as Northern Ireland Minister. Confusion over why the information conveyed to Mr Waddington is or is not passed on to the Richard Ryder, serving Chief Whip.

Hitchen, Editor of the Sunday Express, visits Mr Major, on behalf of Mr Al Fayed, to warn him about Neil Hamilton and Mr Smith.

September 30: The Prime Minister instructs Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, to set up an investigation into the allegations. He refers Mr Al Fayed's threat to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The investigation never starts.

October 10: Sir Robin interviews Mr Smith, who admits taking the money.

October 18: Sir Robin tells

Mr Major that Mr Smith should be forced to resign by the end of the week. October 19: Two ministers.

Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith, named late night in the Commons by a Labour MP as having taken payments from Mr Al Fayed from 1987-89.

for-questions allegations. Mr Smith resigns the same day. Mr Hamilton vows to fight on. October 21, 1995: Sir Robin, Michael Heseltine and the

about the emergence of three members of the Al Fayed staff

planned libel trial against The

Guardian last October, who

saw cash being stuffed in brown envelopes. It is incon-

ceivable, if the evidence were

true, that he would not have

produced some mention of

vitness evidence to reinforce

his diary entries until... the

eve of the trial two years after

of Richard Ryder, then Chief

Whip, after the allegations

were published. "I was osten-

sibly given a choice. Ryder said that the pressure might be too great for me to with-

stand but the decision whether

to resign or not was left to me."

an hour later received a "furi-ous telephone" call from Mr

Ryder. "It was clear that

although I had exercised the

choice which he had ostensi-

bly given me, he strongly

disapproved of my decision.

Nevertheless, as I had decided

to remain a member of the

Government I had a right to

expect collective support. The displeasure of the Chief Whip

carried with it the clear impli-

cation that such support

On the following Monday

he was denied contact with

Tory MPs and told by Mr

Ryder to "go back to my

department and get on with

my job". He adds: "He did not

tell me that it had already been

decided that by lunchtime tomorrow I would not have

Simon Jenkins, page 24 Leading article, page 25

would be only lukewarm".

He decided to battle on but

Mr Hamilton is dismissive

The Guardian article."

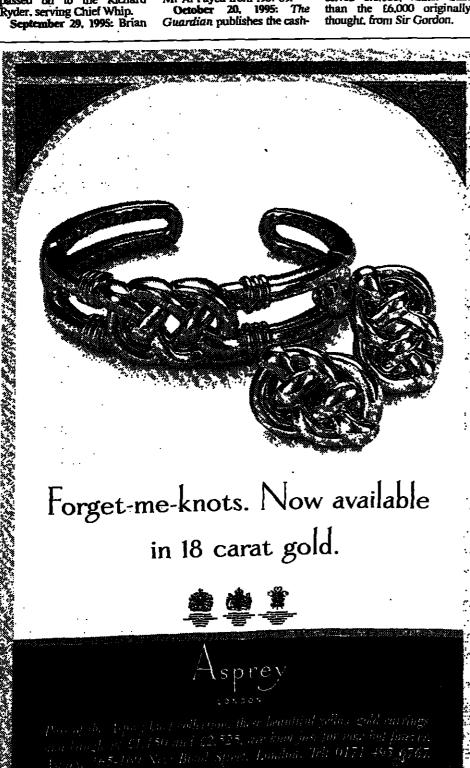
Chief Whip ask Mr Hamilton if he had a financial arrangement with Ian Greer. Mr nilton denies IL Mr Greei and Mr Hamilton issue a writ. October 22, 1995: Sir Robin

concludes inquiry. October 26, 1995: Mr Hamilton resigns. September 30 1996: The

Greer and Hamilton libel trial collapses over conflicts of interest in their evidence. March 17: John Major an-

nounces that Parliament will be Prorogued on March 21. March 20: The Times dis-

closes that Mr Smith had confessed to the Downey investigation that he had received E18,000, rather than than the £6,000 originally





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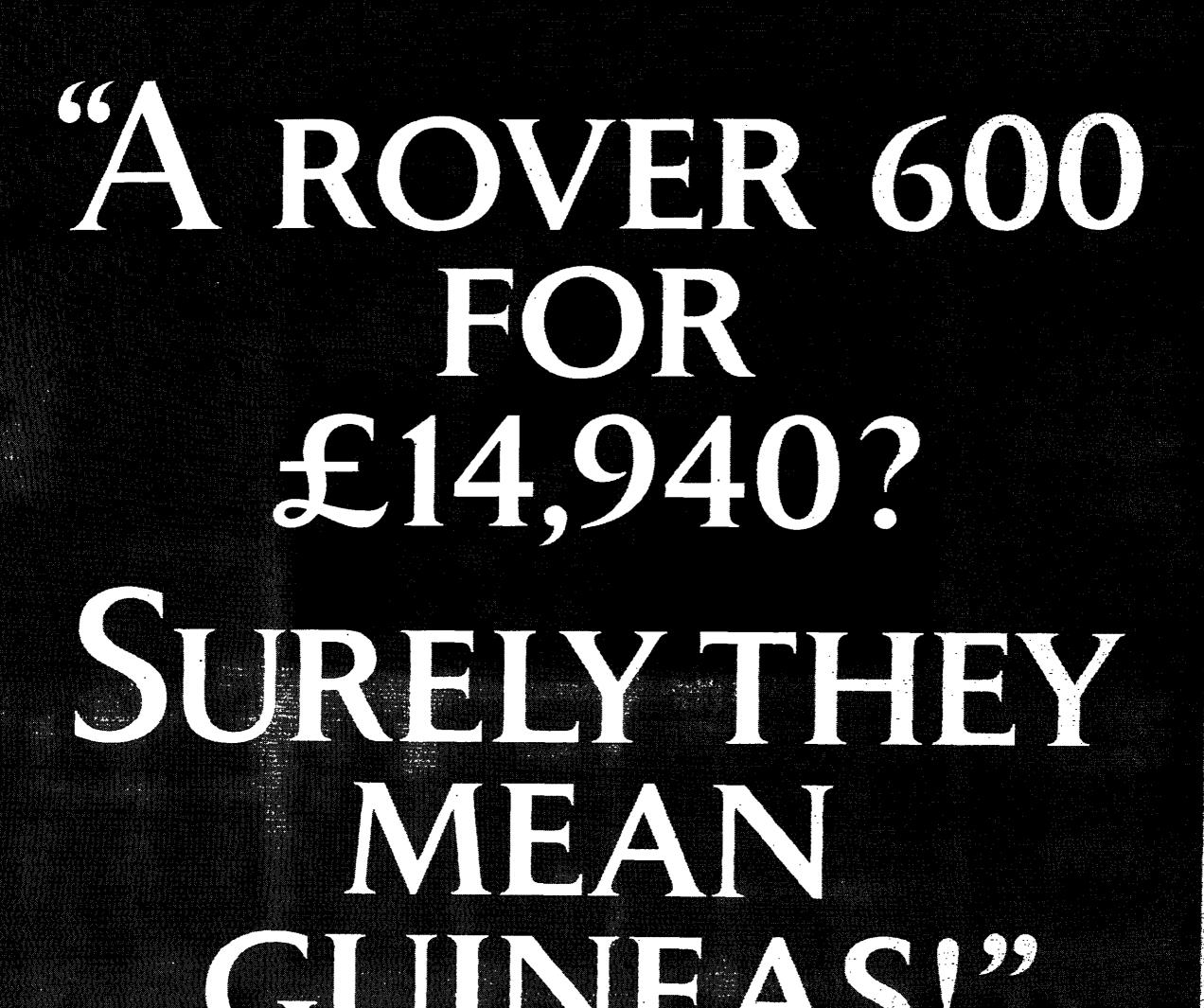
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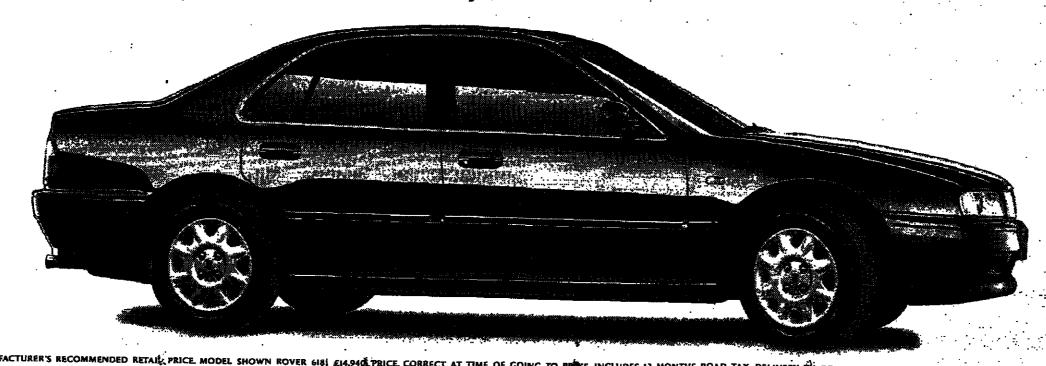
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RELA

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Briton to receive Légion d'honneur for dash through stormy seas to reach race rival

Yachtsman earns top French honour for ocean rescue

AND ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH yachtsman who singlehandedly saved a stricken rival in a round-the-world race is to receive France's most celebrated honour for bravery, the Légion d'honneur.

Pete Goss, a former Royal Marine, answered a mayday call from Raphael Dinelli and sailed 160 nautical miles through storms to pull the Frenchman from a liferaft in the Southern Ocean.

Mr Goss, 35, will be honoured after he completes the Vendée Globe race in Les Sables d'Olonne, France, on Sunday. He is not expected to finish last of the six competitors left, despite the rescue and having to carry out surgery on his own arm.

The yachtsman was informed of the award by satellite fax. He previously used the fax to receive instructions from the race doctor on how to repair two hernias in his arm, and operated by the light of a torch strapped to his head.

Mr Goss, of St Germans, Comwall, began the 22,000mile challenge in France in November. His 50st yacht, Aqua Quorum, is the smallest of the 16 in the race. He saved M Dinelli 1.200 miles south of Perth, Australia, after battling through heavy seas and storms which knocked down his boat three times. Mr Goss



Dinelli: will be at race finish to meet rescuer

found the Frenchman, who was suffering from hypothermia, in a liferaft on Boxing Day. He radioed to race organisers: "I have just had the best Christmas present ever: Raphael is on board, cold

but happy."
M Dinelli, 28, is expected to be on the quayside on Sunday to welcome his rescuer. Mr Goss, who is married with three children, ran up debts of £80,000 to take part. He will be the first Briton to complete the non-stop race. A fellow competitor. Tony Bullimore, from Bristol, was rescued after spending several days in his upturned yacht.

Yesterday Mr Goss was 300 miles off France in the Atlantic. He still has to take painkillers but has regained full movement in his injured arm, using it to pump a generator

was said to be "surprised and delighted" to receive the award, which will be presented in Paris later.

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said in a letter to him: "We want to express our profound gratitude, together with our com-patriots, for the help you gave to the French yachtsman in trouble in heavy seas. Risking your own life, you did not hesitate to do everything possible to save our compatriot."

Mr Goss joins a distin-guished group of Britons, including Queen Victoria and Richard Cobb, the late historian, who have been given the right to wear the coveted red ribbon. Devised by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Ordre de la Légion d'honneur is France's principal national decoration. It was originally intended to create a group of veteran soldiers and political allies that could play the role of an "intermediary body" between the State and the people. Members of the order had to swear an oath to uphold liberty and equality.

in recent years the award has come to be used as a general mark of recognition by the French State, presented for acts of bravery and to individuals of distinction in every sphere. About 210,000 people currently hold the honour. On his state visit to Britain last year, President



Pete Goss, who radioed: "I have just had the best Christmas present ever: Raphael is on board, cold but happy"

Chirac, who is the grand master of the legion, presented 12 of the awards. Recipients included Sir Christopher Mallaby, the former British Ambassador to France.

An official at the Grande Chancellerie de la Légion d'honneur, the office in Paris that administers the award, said that on average five to ten British citizens received the distinction each year. In 1963 President de Gaulle decided that it was being given too freely, and sharply reduced the annual nominations. Any-

one sentenced to prison for a criminal offence is must immediately surrender the award.

The holder is entitled to wear the red ribbon in the buttonhole or to wear a clip designating the award on the lapel at all times. Professor Cobb claimed to have had the ribbon sewn onto his pyjamas. The medal that goes with the award, a star with five double branches that is engraved with Marianne, the lemale symbol of the republic, is made of silver, or gold for senior grades of the order.



Raphael Dinelli on the hull of his yacht, Algimouss

Disabled fans barred from final

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

BACKERS of the non-league soccer club Chelmsford City have scored a victory against the premiership giants Manchester United over an advertisement for the soft drink Red

A poster for Red Card, which calls itself a high-energy drink, featured City and the slogan, "If you can smell fear, Man Utd must reek". Red Card is made by the Chelmsford-based company Britvic, which

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to the Advertising Standards Authority that the advertisement "could provoke antisocial behaviour, unfairly attacked the reputation of Manchester United and made unfair use of the goodwill attached to the club's name".

United are sent off by a Red Card

Although the authority conceded that the poster might be seen as encouraging rivalry between fans of the two teams, it thought that it was unlikely to cause serious or widespread offence or to encourage antisocial behaviour, and rejected

sponsors City. United complained the complaint. The authority accepted Red Card's argument that the public would see the poster as ironic and typical of the laddish language used by football supporters.

In December Paul Gascoigne threatened legal action against Britvic over an advertisement showing a crushed can of Red Card with the slogan "You can't beat a Red Card, Gazza". Gascoigne, who was reported to have battered his wife. Sheryl, is understood to have felt that the advertisement was referring to his domestic problems.

BY JOHN GOODBODY

SIXTY disabled fans of Middlesbrough Football Club will be unable to watch their side in a cup final, despite having season tickets, because Wembley does not have facilities for them.

The national stadium can take only 30 fans in wheelchairs from each team for the Coc-Cola Cup on April 6. The 60 will miss out despite among Middlesbrough's 27,000 season-ticket holders, who are usually guaranteed a seat. The

club has 32,000 tickets for the game seats to other disabled fans. The 30 against Leicester City.

Fiona Wilson, a carer for one of the unlucky supporters, said: "This is disgraceful. For many of the older fans, it is a lifelong dream to watch their club at Wembley in a major final. These are season-ticket holders, but they are being discriminat-

ed against." In its new Riverside which was opened in 1995, Middlesbrough have room for at least 300 home and away supporters in wheelchairs and offer front row

who are going have been selected from those who suffer from the worst disabilities and who have attended all the club's games this SEASON.

Martin Corrie, the Wembley spokesman, said: "Although we have modernised the stadium, we are limited by the original design ground level to house more than 30

Football, pages 54-56

NEWS IN BRIEF Stalker is

jailed for four years

An illegal immigrant who stalked and terrified a hairdresser for more than a year, after she refused to enter into a marriage of convenience with him, was jailed for four

years yesterday. Alman Al-Shlash, 33, a former Syrian secret agent, left Catherine Aliali, 36, on the brink of insanity, Southwark Crown Court was told. They both lived in Mayfair, London, where he followed her to and from work, stood outside her home, rang her at night and tricked his way in. Judge Rucker told Al-Shiash, convicted in January of mentally inflicting grievous bodily harm, he had made a healthy. happy woman very ill.

Human cargo

A lorry driver who tried to smuggle 24 illegal Asian immigrants through the Channel Tunnel was jailed for 2½ years. Phillip Arlott, 39. of Littleover, Derby, claimed he was threatened at gunpoint in Germany.

Bolt from blue

A 3in bolt protruding from the surface of the Al4 near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, disrupted traffic when it punctured the tyres of 14 forries before police closed the carriageway and had the bolt

Veteran cleared

A Parachute Regiment veteran was cleared of hitting his neighbour, Marguerite Cameron, 84, in a dispute over treefelling in Basingstoke, Hamp-shire, Philip Butler, 76, a former sergeant, said: "I could never hit a woman."

Cinema boom

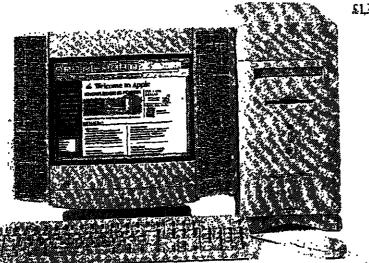
Cinema attendances rose last year to 112.1 million, the highest of the decade, boosted by successes such as Independence Day. Mission: Impossible and 101 Dalmatians. Britain now has an estimated 1,757 cinema screens.

Shop assistance

Women tired of taking bored partners round clothes shops can drop them off at a creche for men in Birmingham. A store in City Plaza provides a sofa, videos and a glass of wine for the men, while women are free to shop.



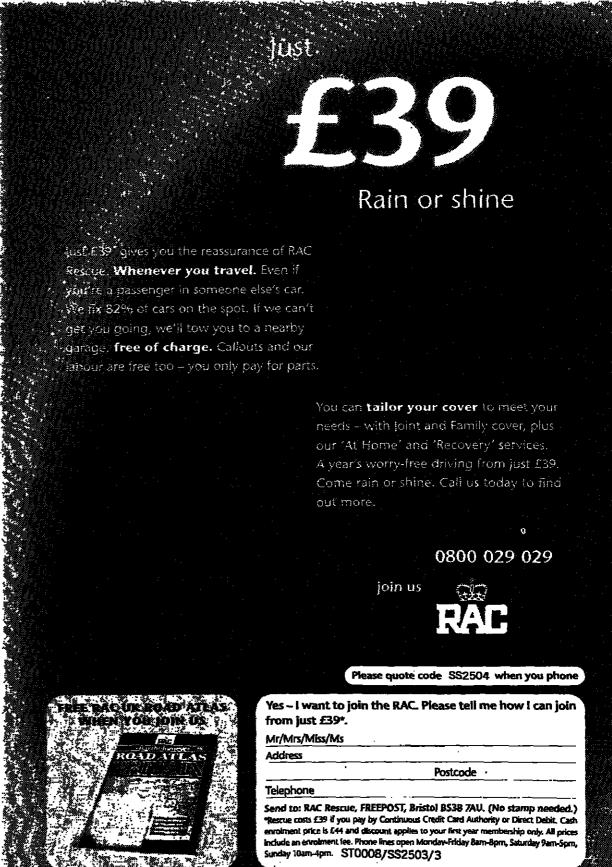
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INTE

'It is like Euston station or one great cocktail party. The noise is deafening'

Abbey hopes £4 entry fee will curb unholy din

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

WESTMINSTER Abbey is likely to introduce a £4 admission charge next year to re-duce the growing crowds of tourists that threaten to destroy its spiritual atmosphere.

The cathedrals of St Paul's, Canterbury and Ely have already introduced entry fees to raise funds, and other religious attractions are considering making the increasing number of visitors contribute to their upkeep. Westminster Abbey, how-

ever, is flush with funds. It is considering charges not to raise money but to help the hard-pressed clergy to keep control of their church and to reduce noise in what is intended to be a place of prayer. Entrance to services would be free and there would be a place of prayer that worshippers could enter at any time

without charge.
While other parts of the
Church of England have seen a serious decline in numbers. the abbey is overrun with visitors almost daily. Canon Anthony Harvey, the archdeacon, said: "The abbey is rather like Euston station, or one great cocktail party. The noise is deafening. At certain times, it has become dangerous."

St Paul's, Ely and Canterbury have seen funds soar since they introduced charges for the millions of visitors who pass through their doors each year. Winchester, Wells and Salisbury, which do not have an explicit charge but encour-age visitors to contribute with strategically placed signs and collection boxes, have also had

An official decision has still to be made at Westminster. but a £4 charge for adults is expected to be introduced from

a big rise in funds.

Easter next year.

Tourists already pay that sum to visit the abbey's Chapels Royal, and a £4 fee for members of tour groups was introduced last year. If the blanket charge were introduced, there would not be an additional fee for the Chapels

Emma St John-Smith, spokeswoman for the abbey. said: "We have not come to a conclusion yet. We have a huge overcrowding problem and something has got to be done. We have 22 million visitors each year, and that does not include service congregations.

"In peak periods it is impossible to move across the nave.



Tourists outside Westminster Abbey yesterday. About 21/2 million people visit each year, often causing overcrowding

We have somehow got to calm

and quieten it down.*

Charges for tour parties were introduced at the request of the tour operators, she said. This was because those that charged visitors more to allow them to see the entire abbey were being undercut by tour operators that offered a reduced price to see only the nave and other free areas. The abbey, technically not a cathedral but a Royal Peculiar, has charged for access to the Chapels Royal for centuries. Canon David Hutt, steward of Westminster, said: "A num-

the abbey's operation, and charging is one option. But we have a sound financial basis and this is not to do with creating revenue. I have looked long and hard at Canterbury and St Paul's, and at both of these cathedrals control has effectively been regained. Nobody wants to charge people to come to church, but the reality is that 90 per cent of our visitors come because it is on the tourist route and has significant monuments. Given predictions of an increase, we have to do something."

looking at different aspects of

Dr John Moses, the new Dean of St Paul's, said there were no plans to reverse the decision to charge visitors. made under his predecessor. the late Dr Eric Evans.

The Very Rev Richard Lewis. Dean of Wells and chairman of the Deans and Provosts' Conference, said: "Unless those who visit these wonderful places contribute to their upkeep, before very long they simply cannot continue in the way they do. The issue of how to raise money from pilgrim tourists is on the agenda of almost every cathedrai at present, and certainly

those on the tourist trail." The Very Rev Ray Furnell, Dean of York and chairman of the Association of English Cathedrals, is not considering imposing charges on the two million annual visitors to York Minster. "It is a decision that each cathedral has to make in the light of its financial situation," he said. "I personally would be loathe to charge, but can quite understand why

there are those who do. This is

not a subject that is currently

on our agenda."

At Your Service

Priest dies at altar during early Mass

By A STAFF REPORTER

A PRIEST has collapsed and Hollis collapsed, said: "He died at the altar during an early morning Roman Catho-lic Mass. Canon Laurence Hollis, 79, was consecrating the Host at the church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Shotley

PED PACKAGE

He officially retired six years ago but continued to assist at weekday Masses. Last year Canon Hollis met the Pope in Rome to celebrate his 50 years as a priest.

A colleague, the Rev Joseph Plumb, said: "He was not the sort of man who would have

wanted to get old and frail. "He was still a very busy. man and popular in the area. He worked hard for the Church and I think this is the way he would have wanted to

John Toner, a member of the congregation when Father ering from an operation.

was blessing the Host one minute and then there was this awful bang. I looked up and he had fallen against the

Paramedics tried to revive the canon and he was anoint ed by colleagues before being taken to hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

Churches have been asked to dedicate Masses to the canon. His funeral next week will be attended by the Right Rev Ambrose Griffiths, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

More than 500 mourners are expected at the service. which will be held at the chief church of the parish. Our Blessed Lady Immaculate in Blackhill. Father Phumb has charge of the parish while the parish priest, the Rev John Kennedy, is in Ireland recov-

Pope makes appearance on Songs of Praise

ber of working parties are

By RUTH GLEDHILL

POPE John Paul II is to deliver a special message to British television viewers on Easter Day in the first appea ance by a pontiff on the BBC's Songs of Praise.

in a recorded announcement from the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome, the Pope will say: "I extend special greetings to the representatives of the BBC and to the viewers of Songs of Praise. May God fill your hearts with sentiments of joy and gratitude towards our Creator."

St Mary Major has a con-gregation of 700, most of whom are British Christians of various denominations. It is the first time that Songs of Praise has visited Rome. Maurice Maguire, the pro-



Pope: Will send Easte message from Rome

ducer, said: "We were given special access to film the Pope visiting a parish in his home diocese - a rare opportunity for viewers to see him performing his duties as Bishop and Archbishop of Rome."

Pam Rhodes, the presenter, said that it had taken two years to arrange his appearance. "The amount of red tape involved is amazing and nothing about dealing with the Vatican is ever predictable." ☐ The Easter edition of Songs Praise is broadcast at 5.45pm on March 30.

Police recover stolen brass eagle lectern

A BRASS eagle lectern worth that the insurance money £20,000 has been found three years after it was stolen from from St Katherine's Church in Exbury, Hampshire, It was recovered in Southampton by detectives investigating other alleged offences.

£300, will have to remain at a police station for the present. The Rev Terry Abernethy, rector of St Katherine's, said from the stolen eagle had been spent on a new lectern, made from wood by a local craftsman and churchgoer which, he said, suited the look of the church better.

"Now I suppose the insurers The lectern, which was will want their money back. I bought by a man in the city for cannot understand how anythe first place. It takes four men and a trolley to shift it even a couple of inches."

Credo

Mystery of Easter drama should be sought in silence

ne of the early fathers of the Christian Church spoke of the death of Jesus as a mystery wrought in the silence of God. Here are words - mystery and silence - which should properly inform the approach of Christian people as we enter once again upon the drama of Holy Week.

The events of Holy Week are familiar, from the entry into Jerusalem to the Crucifixion. It is true that there comes a point as the story unfolds when Jesus moves from activity to passivity, from action to ion, as He hands Himself over. But the words that first

suggest themselves as we read the story are movement action, drama.

It is the Church's task to set before us in its liturgy the whole drama of our redemption as it reaches its climax

in the events of Holy Week and Easter. What is reguired of us as we approach these days is an awareness of the mystery of salvation and of

the grace of silence. Mystery speaks of things that lie beyond our understanding. The Cross is the element of uncompromising and inescapable sacrifice at the heart of Christian faith. It defies rational explanation.

It continues to speak, however, to the brokenness, the torment, of our world. It is in the wastelands of our experience that we enter the darkness. It is there - and, perhaps, only there - that the Cross can speak of the wisdom and the power of God. Silence speaks of the only

response that faith can make. To wait upon God in silence is to pray. Indeed, it is the most profound, the most disturbing, prayer that can be offered. It is in the poverty, the emptiness of our discipleship that we approach the mystery of salvation. Silence speaks of the necessity of waiting, of

iscerning, of receiving Mystery and silence challenge our ways of believing, of praying, of responding. We

the place that these words must have within the vocabu-lary of the Church, but there is something that holds us back. Is it the fear that we might lose control?

Scripture reminds us that it is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. The invitation is to engage with the mystery, to enter the silence. But. yes, there is always the danger that we might actually be touched and changed by the events of Good Friday and Easter Day.

There is however, a question that must be asked not only of individuals but of the Church. Mystery and silence are not words that come immediately to mind where the vocabulary of contemporary church life is

concerned. There is much in the life of the Church for which we can be profoundly grateful. There are patterns of worship and

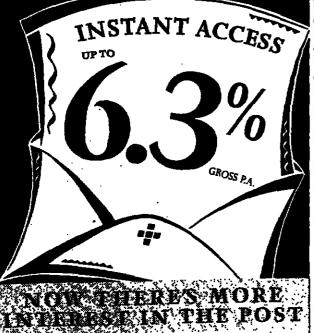
work - conscientious and participative which take seriously both our understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ and our

John Moses

engagement with the world. But the saving events of our religion - the mysteries of faith - demand a response that is fundamentally reflective and contemplative in character. Mystery and silence must shape our approach to Holy Week and Easter, but they must also inform throughout the year our patterns and our styles of worship, our use of scripture. our teaching and our training programmes, our developing traditions of prayer.

There is a growing awareness of the immense resources we possess within the life of the Church. We live in a world where people are still able to recognise the authority of mystery and the integrity of silence. Holy Week is a good

☐ Dr John Moses is the Dean of St Paul's



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Bizarre return for troubled Mobutu

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

THE return of Zaire's President Mobutu collapsed into bizarre chaos at Kinshasa's international airport yesterday when civilian dignitaries and the military high command waiting to greet him were ordered off the tarmac.

The incident intensified speculation that the ailing President had taken a turn for the worse on his seven-hour flight from France.

Mr Mobutu, 66, who left Nice yesterday morning, failed to appear at the door of his DC8 after his limousine was driven to the steps of the aircraft. A handful of his entourage descended from the plane carrying shopping bags, but left the assembled welcoming party to an unexplained, half-an-hour hiatus.

The President's return had been billed by his supporters as an opportunity to end the political

Mobutu at Nice airport before yesterday's flight

chaos which had engulfed the capital, Kinshasa, since a rebel uprising in the east last November. But at the airport there was no sign of the "father of the nation". His plane restarted its engines as the guard of honour was ordered to

Britain may stage airlift

By Michael Evans Defence correspondent

BRITISH troops may be sent to Zaire to move nearly 500 Britons and Commonwealth citizens who have been caught up in the spreading civil war.

Contingency plans are being prepared which could involve deploying the short-notice "Spearhead" Battalion, now the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, to establish an operational base from which to organise an evacuation. Foreign Office sources confirmed yesterday that a number

of military options were being studied in case the situation in Zaire deteriorated rapidly.

There are about 470 people who might need to leave Zaire, 310 of them with British passports and the rest Commonwealth citizens for whom the Foreign Office has consular responsibilities. Most are based in Kinshasa, but special arrangements might be necessary to help Britons in outlying regions

to reach Kinshasa.

France has sent troops and planes to Congo and Gabon, and the United States has also made contingency plans for nationals.

shoulder arms and go away. Leon Kengo wa Dondo, the Prime Minister, who is disputing his "removal" by a parliamentary vote, managed to maintain his composure when he was almost knocked to the ground by the honour guard, who scrambled to leave the airport. General Mahele Lieko Bukongo, the Chief of Staff, was just as unceremoniously told to leave Njili airport.

At sunset there was still no proof that Zaire's leader, who has spent most of the last eight months in Europe being treated for cancer, had set foot in his home country. "He is clearly very ill. This is most mysterious," a member of his staff said.

A source close to Mr Mobutu said last night that the President had arrived in Kinshasa but had not wanted to be seen being helped from his aircraft. The source said the President had been helped into his limousine, which drove from the airport through Kinshasa in a convoy that was jeered by onlookers. As a sign of high disrespect, they whistled and flicked the backs of their hands and shouted support for Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader who has vowed to topple the President.

Had Kinshasa not been primed for violence with a civilian government voted out of office by a parliament under pressure from the military. Mr Mobutu's return would have been laughable. But the scenes could ignite anarchy.

Members of the President's entourage admitted that his return was less an attempt to resolve Zaire's political crisis than an effort to buy time for his family to escape. "The reign of Mobutu is over in anything but name. There is nothing left that he can do," a family friend said.

LAST YEAR



A lorry driver clutches looted Zairean currency worth £125 which he was paid for carrying rebels to newly-conquered Kisangani

Hitch over Chinese garrison

London: Britain and China failed to agree on arrangements for posting a Chinese garrison in Hong Kong ahead of the July I handover during talks between the two Governments in London this week (Mark Henderson writes).

Zhao Jihua, the Chinese Ambassador, who represented Beijing at a meeting of the Sino-British joint liaison group, said yesterday that the impasse threatened to disrupt a smooth handover. The size of the garrison and the date of its arrival in the colony remain at issue.

Gore's daughter to wed doctor

Washington: Vice-President Al Gore's oldest daughter, Karenna, is to marry Andrew Schiff, a New York doctor, in Washington in November (Bronwen Maddox writes). Karenna, 23, a Harvard graduate, works on the Internet magazine Slate. Mr Schiff, 31, is a Democrat although he comes from a wealthy Republican banking family.

Sri Lanka orders poll curfew

Colombo: Sri Lanka declared a night curfew as sporadic violence and charges of rigging marred crucial local government elections. A bomb blast injured at least 14 people near a polling booth in the town of Wennapuwa, while shootings and assaults were also reported. There were no deaths. (AFP)

Priebke moved to monastery

Frascati: Erich Priebke, 83, the German former SS captain whose retrial for alleged Nazi war crimes begins next month, was moved from jail to house arrest in a Roman Catholic monastery here. He will be kept in a room with a bullet-proof glass window covered by bars. (Reuter)

O J falls behind on mortgage

New York: A mortgage company has started foreclosure proceedings against O.J. Simpson because he has missed \$86,000 (£55,000) in payments on his Los Angeles mansion, the New York Post reported. He has three months to pay the sum. (Reuter)

Reunion bash

Amsterdam: A mother, 63, and her daughter, estranged for eight years, bumped into each other in a road accident. After an emotional reunion, the daughter, 44, left for hospital tresment. (AP)

Marconi book broadcasts his Fascist role

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

GUGLIELMO MARCONI, normally thought of in his homeland as a national hero for his invention of radio, was an arden! Fascist who misused his genius in the service of the dictator. Benito Mussolini. according to a book published here pertenday

published here yesterday.

Born in 1874, Marconi emigrated to Britain, frustrated by his attempts to win recognition in Italy. He is nonetheless held up as an example of Italian enterprise who transmitted radio waves across the Straits of Dover in 1899, and won the Nobel prize for physics.

physics.
However, in a book on Italian intellectuals in Britain between 1920 and 1940 Alfio Bernabei reveals that, in his late forties, Mar-

orary president
of the London
branch of Mussolini's Blackshirts and "used
his invention to
make personal
broadcasts in
support of the
Duce". Unknown to him. or

coni became hon-

the 1,500 members of the British branch, MI5 was keeping a close eye on Mussolini's followers.

Signor Bernabei, who has lived in London for more than 30 years and is the London correspondent of the left-wing daily l'Unità, says archives in the Public Records Office show that Marconi was one of the first Italian intellectuals to congratulate Mussolini when he came to power in 1922. Not long after — when Mussolini was flexing his muscles by briefly occupying Corfu -Marconi applied for party membership, declaring his full and unconditional support" for Mussolini's "patriotc and energetic policies. In April, 1927, he became head of the British branch of the Italian Fascist Party.

Signor Bernabei's researches show that, when Marconi became president of the British branch, his fellow Blackshirts greeted him with the

words: In the golden book of those who were among the first to side with Fascism, there are no names more significant and illustrious than those of Mussolini and Marconi.

Marconi organised a Blackshirt Gala at the Savoy Hotel to celebrate his appointment, attended by leading figures from London society. Hearranged for a live wineless link with Rome at midnight so his guests could be greeted by the Duce personally.

In 1932 Marconi made a

In 1932 Marconi made a broadcast in English. French and German appealing to men of thought and artists all over the world to visit Rome to experience at first hand the achievements of the Fascist.

Revolution*. He supported Mussolim's invasion of Ethiopia, describing Ethiopia as a "dark tangle of tribes" who would beneat the Fascist movement 1 ltalian contagnation and he discussed the supported Mussolim's invasion*. He supp

League of Nations' saucidink' against Italy as "criminal".
Signor Bernabei said a "cell of silence" had been through over Marconi's activities.

of silence" had been drawn over Marconi's activities. "Marconi's Fascist sympathies are sometimes mentioned, but many Italians and foreigners are unaware that the great inventor was such a key figure in the Fascist movement." Signor Bernabei said.

Marconi died in Rome in 1937. GEC-Marconi, which

Marconi died in Rome in 1937. GEC-Marconi, which owns his archive, caused upmar in January when it announced that it was selling the papers through Christie's next month. Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli, the inventor's daughter, who lives in Rome launched a campaign lastmonth to stop the sale.

[] Italian Exiles and Immi-

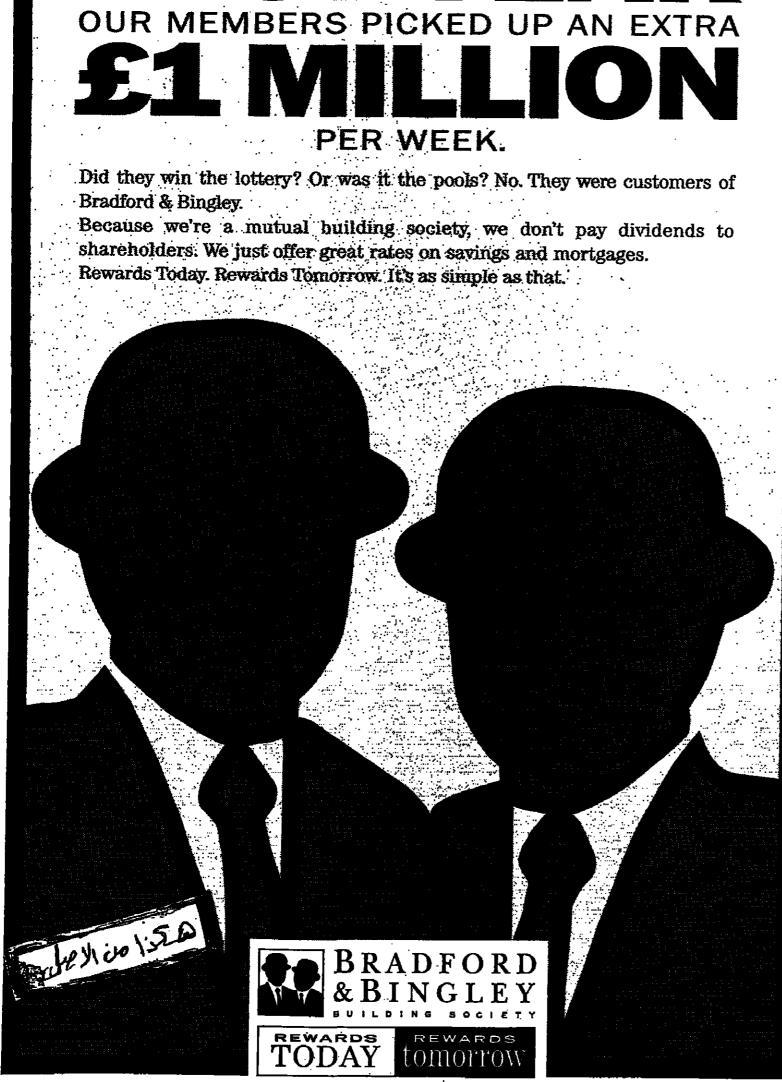
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grants in the United Kingdom 1920-1940 ("Esuli ed Emigrati Italiani nel Regno Unito 1920-1940") is published in Italian by Ugo Mursia Editore, Milan, price £9.30.



Guglielmo Marconi, revered as an inventor and hero



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Freedom hope for Briton as Papua mercenaries leave

By NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY, ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE British leader of the foreign mercenaries in Papua New Guinea is likely to be freed today after Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the dismissed military chief, agreed to let him go.

Lieutenant-Colonel Times formarks of the Sente

Spicer, formerly of the Scots Guards, who was once military assistant in Bosnia to General Sir Michael Rose, is due to be handed over to Bob Low, the British High Commissioner in Port Moresby.

The mercenaries were hired by the Papua New Guinea Government on a reported £20 million contract to help to quell a rebellion on the island of Bougainville. They were detained earlier this week by General Singirok, who called for the overthrow of the Prime Minister. His sacking led to riots and looting in Port Moresby.

As the deal was struck between General Singirok and Mr Low, the sacked defence chief issued another ultimatum to Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister. He told him to step down by Tuesday or face a parliamentary vote of confidence.

In Canberra, John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, confirmed that troops had been placed on a higher state of readiness in case the situation in Port Moresby deteriorated. He emphasised that the Australians were not preparing to help the Papua New Guinea police to restore peace, but he did not rule out the possibility that they could be used to evacuate Australians if

necessary, Sixty mercenaries, hired by Sir Julius to train the Papua New Guinea Defence Force to end the nine-year secessionist



A supporter of sacked General Singirok threatens an opposing soldier in Port Moresby yesterday

Tobacco firms act to silence research

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S biggest tobacco firms, backed by Wall Street, last night launched a counteroffensive against a rival's promise to release health research that could jeopardise the \$50 billion (£3).4 billion) American industry.

The Liggett Group, the smallest of the five big tobac-

Bougainville rebellion, left the

country for Hong Kong yester-day to the sound of jeers and

insults from demonstrators.

The hiring of the soldiers, contracted by London-based Sandline International, pro-

voked the confrontation be-

tween Sir Julius and General

Singirok, who objected to for-

eigners getting involved in lighting the Bougainville

The former defence chief

yesterday released details of

the EIS million contract with

Sandline International. He

was involved in the

He said the mercenaries

would have been used as

frontline fighters in Bougain-

ville and not merely as instruc-

tors, as the Prime Minister

The demonstrators who

gathered at the airport to see

off the mercenaries had as-

sumed that Lieutenant-Colo-

nel Spicer, the chief executive

of Sandline International, was

However, the company later

said that he was still being

held. The High Commissioner

succeeded in speaking on the telephone to Lieutenant-Colo-

nel Spicer yesterday, although

he was not allowed to see him.

gathered outside the British

High Commission to voice

their opposition to the merce-

naries. Mr Low reassured them that the force was leaving. Port Moresby was relatively quiet after police put up

roadblocks around the town to

Earlier, demonstrators

fighting

negotiations.

had stated.

among them.

co companies and the maker of Chesterfield, announced a settlement with 22 states on Thursday in which it admitted, for the first time, that smoking was addictive, caused heart disease, cancer and lung-related illnesses. Most importantly, the company agreed to provide evidence of meetings between industry lawyers that it claimed would prove tobacco firms had long known of the

rettes to underage smokers. The four other big manulacturers -- which include Philip Morris, the maker of Mariboro: and Brown and Williamson, a subsidiary of Britain's BAT Industries have already obtained a tenday restraining order in North Carolina. They were said yesterday to be seeking further injunctions.

dangers of nicotine and still

continued to market ciga-

The companies denounced the deal, under which Liggettsettled smoking related health claims by paying \$25 million and a quarter of its pretax profits over the next 25 years.



Shock tactics: a poster used by Stivoro, a Dutch foundation that promotes healthcare initiatives, to discourage young people from taking up smoking

statement in which they said it stocks, Wall Street analysts was an effort by Bennett also dismissed the Liggett LeBow. Liggett's owner, to salvage the fortunes of his insolvent company. Despite

also dismissed the Liggett deal as an event with little significance for the industry. However. Al Gore, the Vice-President, welcomed the ac-

the American people".

"This is a media event and has no relation to the rest of the industry," said Jack Maxwell an industry analyst.

Advance in early detection of cancer

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN scientists have identified key chemical changes in the body which promise dramatic improvements in the detection of colon and skin cancers and may

transform their treatment. The "landmark" findings by two research teams, reported in this week's edition of Science, could have a huge impact on public health. Colon cancer is the third most common cancer among Americans, while rates of melanoma, a skin cancer, are

increasing due to sunburn. Both teams report they have oinpointed the unusual behaviour of a protein as one of the main reasons why normal cells become cancerous, "We believe this is the major initiating event." Kenneth Kinzler of Johns Hopkins Oncology Centre, one of the co-authors of the three papers, said. A cell becomes a cancer

when its genetic material has necome so mutated, either through inherited defects or outside factors such as diet, that it behaves abnormally. Scientists have searched for years for a chemical sign of that turning point. In colon cancer, they have found that this critical level of mutation occurs when there are changes in the relative levels of three proteins in colon cells.

This sequence of chemical changes may be present in as much as 90 per cent of all cases of colon cancer.

Albanians stop short of declaring breakaway state

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

yesterday stopped short of grip on the media be broken. Greek, interests, and finally declaring an independent re- and that state television be put try's slide towards a northsouth conflict.

Sources close to the rebels' leader, Agim Gozhita, said a meeting of southern leaders had reiterated the demand for President Berisha's resignation. They also said that the post of President should be replaced by a presidential council. However, there was no mention of military action against the north, and the rebel council said it recognised the government of Bashkim Fino, the Prime Minister, on condition that he formally distances himself from the President. The council also

ALBANIA'S southern rebels demanded that Mr Berisha's then there are foreign, mainly Government.

There was no official reaction to the meeting yesterday in Tirana, but sources in the Government applauded the rebels' conciliatory tone. "It's a step forward," said one opposition chief of Cabinet. You cannot interpret this in any way as being an attempt to create an autonomous southern republic." However, much of the Albanian political class in Tirana is sceptical about how representative the rebel committee in the south. and its northern counterpart, are. There is an influence of

people who have lost money.

you have army officers," said Centre for Economic Research. He said the danger of Greek minority-inspired breakaway republic was very

much alive. Orphans moved: The children rescued from Elbasan were yesterday moved to a block of flats near the British Embassy in Tirana, where they are being looked after by Mike and Judy Smith, their British "Home of Hope" guardíans.

An embassy spokesman said the orphans were in good spirits, and had recovered from the shock of their dramatic midnight drive to safety.

Residents averted nuclear disaster

BY TOM WALKER

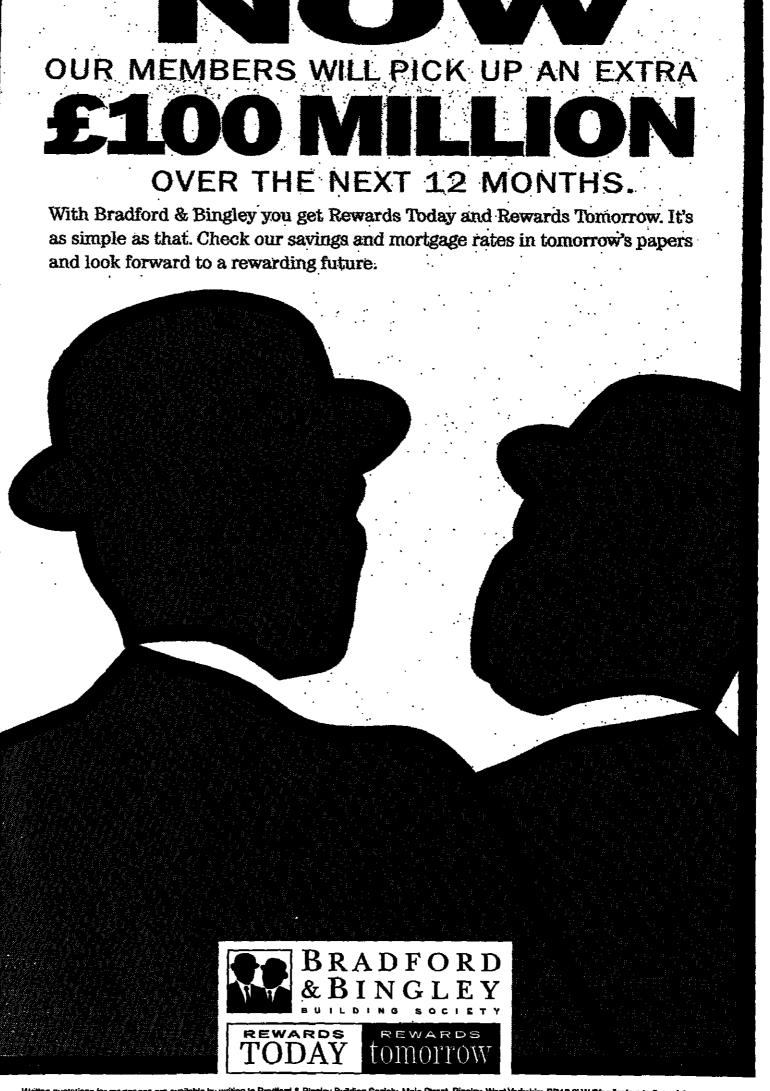
HUNDREDS of Albanian looters are at large with radioactive military materials, oblivious of the threat to their own health and posing a new problem for Italian authorities struggling to deal with the refugee influx.

Robert Kushe, the director of the Albanian Institute for Nuclear Physics, said yesterday that a nuclear disaster in the northern suburbs of Tirana was averted last week only by the vigilance of local residents, who fought off drunken gangs intent on ransacking the institute.

The building's central laboratory contains a lead-protected pencil of the radioactive isotope caesium 137. "Any person who would have taken this would have been dead within minutes, but the biggest potential danger was fire." Mr Kushe said. "The lead would have melted and the whole area around would have been contaminated."

When looters arrived at the institute last Thursday night, local residents who knew of its deadly contents sprang to the rescue. Perparim Bastari, who lives near by, "We told them they would kill themselves and they didn't believe us. But we had enough guns and we were strong."

Elsewhere, looters of military barracks and stores have made off with an unknown quantity of Soviet and Chinese-made radiometers, containing dangerous quantities of the isotopes cobalt 60 and strontium 85. "Anyone with one of these in his pocket has a problem," Mr Kushe said.



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CRISIS IN ALBANIA

Public order in Albania has collapsed. Helpless orphans, refugees and the homeless are forced to fend for themselves. Hundreds of thousands of Albanians are in urgent need of the most basic human supplies.

The Red Cross is responding quickly, by preparing to supply food and medical supplies throughout the region. Our aid workers are actively working with those most in need and are well placed to deliver emergency aid the

A donation of just £25,20 could buy a food parcel which will help feed 24 people for a whole month. These innocent victims depend on our help. Your help can save lives.

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WHOS

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Israel says Arafat gave go-ahead to bombers

IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister. Binyamin Netanyahu, was last night under pressure from members of his ruling coalition to abandon peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation after a devastating Islamic suicide bomb ripped through a crowded Tel Aviv coffee shop.

Within hours of the blast, members of Tsomet, led by Rafael Eitan, a former army chief of staff, and the National Religious Party - two key members of the right-wing government -- were calling for what little talking was still going on to be halted.

The bomb was planted by a 20-year-old Hamas member from a village near Hebron in the occupied West Bank. Numbed residents of Tel Aviv recalled that last year another suicide bomber had struck during the festive Purim holiday, killing 13 people. "It seems that in one year nothing has changed," said one youth.

Mr Netanyahu went into talks with security chiefs to plan Israel's reaction after he blamed the Palestine Authority led by Yassir Arafat for encouraging the bombers. The Prime Minister said: "We hold the authority responsible for giving the green light and we shall decide on the necessary action to defend ourselves."

Hanan Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian minister, was asked if there was still a peace process with Israel. "It is very hard to tell if there is one." she replied. "It is on its death bed. I hope there is enough will to

try to save it."

To date, the peace deal signed in 1993 between the PLO and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's late Labour Prime Minister, has proved remarkably resilient despite repeated early obituary notices. However, after the carnage in Tel Aviv yesterday and violent riots in Hebron, its chances of survival now appears slim.

Yesterday's bomber who stared at his victims before detonating his duffle-bag bomb stuffed with nails came from an area still under Israeli military control. Members of Mr Netanyahu's 18-member cabinet have advocated a number of harsh measures, including the expulsion of the extended families of suicide bombers and helicopter commando raids into Palestinianheld areas to kidnap known Islamic leaders.

Palestinian leaders had said repeatedly that Mr Netanyahu's decision last Tuesday to send the bulldozers to start building a settlement at Har Homa in annexed east would spark widespread violence. Asked whether that move might have contributed to the attack. Mr Netanyahu snapped: "I find that line of questioning obnoxious and immoral.

One of those who saw the full horror of the lunchtime attack which left the palm-

shaded coffee house a mass of charred furniture, half-eaten meals and hadies demed among pools of blood was Shabtai Levanda. 18. who had just returned from a party celebrating Purim. the festival

from the genocide in ancient Persia. "I saw one woman lying on

the ground with her hair on fire. Another lady had lost a hand. There was a baby on the ground and much blood. It was horrible, terrible, he said, still in a state of shock. "I knew sumething like this was going to happen. The peace prixess is going nowhere. orthing is happening."

Mr Nelanyahu, who ordered an immediate closure of the West Bank and Gaza.



An Israeli soldier runs with his uniform on fire from a petrol bomb thrown by Palestinian youths rioting in Hebron. Israeli troops responded by firing into the crowd protesting over Har Homa

marking the salvation of Jews preventing 22 million Pales tinians from reaching Israel proper, was expected to order other retaliatory measures. "Whoever thinks that those who kill children will frighten us does not know us," he said. We will deal with these murderers, each and every one of them.

Visiting the wounded in hospital, he added. The army's security branches had given a warning that terrorist organisations understood that they got a green light from the Palestine Authority and to my sorrow, it has become clear that they were right and the terrorist organisations on the strength of that greenlight.

"I want to say also that the Palestine Authorty did not do a thing, or half a thing to refuse that understanding and therefore it bears very heavy responsibility.

Western diplomats noted that recently Tzahi Haneghi. his Justice Minister, hinted in widely-applauded speech that if violence erupted among Palestinians, Mr Arafat could be sent into exile again or even assassinated. The PLO leader President telephoned Weizman to denounce the Tel Aviv attack.

Helsinki: President Clinton condemned the bombing, but emphasised that the Palestine Authority under Mr Arafai was doing everything it could to fight terrorism (Richard Beeston writes).

Once again an act of terror has brought death and injury to the people of Israel," the American leader said during a press conference after his summit meeting with President Yeltsin. "I condemn it, I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of those who were killed or injured. There is no place for such acts of terror and violence in the peace

He issued a warning that Mr Arafat should not be held accountable. There must be absolutely no doubt in the minds of the friends or enemies of peace that the Palestine Authority is unalterably opposed to terror and unalterably committed to preventing such acts. This is essential to building meaningful and last-ing peace and I will do all I can to achieve that."

A White House official accompanying President Clinton said: "We are all saddened to learn of this explosion. We all know that the way to make progress is not through violence, but through working together. Our thoughts are now with the victims of the Tel Aviv attack and their families."

Leading article, page 25

Bulldozers push peace to the edge

THE Middle East peace process was last night hanging by a thread so slender that any further thoughtless action by Israel or the Palestinians could sever it for good.

If anything is predictable at all in the turbulent region, it was almost a certainty that yesterday would be marked by bloodshed. The Palestinian leadership, enraged by Israel's dispatch this week of bulldozers to build a huge lewish settlement in annexed east Jerusalem, had called for

widespread protests.

The depth of animosity among the Palestinians and the Arab world was summed up by the Egyptian paper al-Ahram. "The construction of the Har Homa settlement represents both a violation of the peace accords and a criminal destruction of a biblical landscape," it said.

Hanan Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian minister, was quick to point out yesterday that the leadership had repeatedly given warnings of the poisoning effect of Israel's irresponsible policies" on the Palestinian mood.

The same view was expressed only 48 hours before the Tel Aviv explosion by the choice between the contin-Nahum Barnea. Israel's leaduation of the peace process ing columnist who lost a son and the continuation of the Government, Netanyahu prein one of last year's Islamic



suicide-bomb attacks in Jerusalem. Of the decision by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to proceed with the Har Homa settlement in the face of international condemnation, Mr Barnea said: "Yesterday's bulldozer could easily turn into tomorrow's terror at-tack." He added: "The confrontation at Har Homa was not born out of sensitivity to the housing needs in Jerusalem, but out of excessive politics. The right wing pressured Netanyahu hard. Given

Ashrawi: leadership warned Israel

ferred Government. He can not be blamed for it. Yet it is difficult to praise."

Even as ambulance sirens were wailing along the leafy boulevards of Tel Aviv. Israeli and Palestinian leaders were mouthing

The Palestinians pointed out that they had given warnings even before the bulldozers started to cut turf on the pine-studded hillside that the Har Homa project would create an "explosion". Their standpoint is that Har Homa is more than a simple settlement: 6,500 homes, hotels and industrial parks will build an Israeli ring of con-

ting off the boly city from the occupied West Bank.

Mr Netanyahu was equally justified in reminding the world that he had issued warnings in the face of American denials that Yassir Arafat. the Palestine Authority President, had given the "green light" to extremists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad to resume their suicide attacks. He made his point clear in a letter to President Clinton which appeared in the Tel Aviv daily Yediot Aharonot hours before the explosion.

"Arafat talks about 'spontaneous' responses on the part of the Palestinian public, but we know he controls what transpires on the ground. This means more than the encouragement of demonstrations. There is conclusive evidence attesting to collaboration with the Hamas and

Islamic Jihad," he writes. His "Dear Bill" letter adds: "As part of this co-operation, Arafat released 120 terrorists. including the notorious Ibra-him Makadma a well-known Hamas commanderl. This was at variance with an explicit American warning against such releases. The freeing of such 'military' leaders from Hamas is tantamount to giving a green light to terror. The act prompts the collapse of the peace process."

Delhi steps up war on traffic pollution is officially put at 7,500, and the carnage

on India's roads is the world's worst at

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

POLLUTION and road chaos, the two defining characteristics of modern Delhi. are being tackled in an intensive police

The Indian Government has set an April 15 deadline for vehicles in the capital to get a pollution-check certificate. Cars, scooters and lorries without a sticker will not be allowed to buy petrol after that

More than 200,000 owners of cars and scooters visited 218 pollution control stations across the city this week to get the certificate, a Delhi Transport Ministry

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official said.

The annual death foll from air pollution

60,000 deaths a year. Without drastic action, pollution could

make the city all but uninhabitable in a decade. It is already one of the world's foulest places, and the River Yamuna, once the city's pride, is little more than a sewer - and no amount of purification can make the water fully safe for drinking. This realisation is causing near panic among the city's educated upper classes, who have turned to expensive bottled water. Rajendra Gupta, Delhi's Transport Minister, said: "The mounting pollution level is . . . leading to the birth of premature and even deformed babies."

Two million of the 2.8 million vehicles on Delhi's roads are two-wheelers, which Written quotations for mortgages are available by writing to Brackord & Bingley Building Society, Main Street, Bingley, Weat Yorkshire Bond 2014, near news to inhance

cause the greatest pollution because of inefficient two-stroke engines. The booming car and scooter industries follow lax standards for exhaust emissions, and the problem is exacerbated by the use of lowquality fuel. Unleaded petrol has only

recently arrived, but few people use it. Police have been instructed to impound polluting vehicles, but sceptics wonder whether the crackdown will work because of the inclination of police officers to take bribes. One hundred rupees (about £2) is normally sufficient to avoid a ticket for a

traffic offence. The destruction of the Yamuna, a holy river to Hindus, is all but complete. But then bribing the authorities is cheaper than observing safe disposal

> the daughter, 44, left for hospital treatment. (AP)

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individual villages to mud and sowing the ground with metal

and explosive. About 24,000

danger zone rouge - a colour chosen, according to M

Dubeaux, to commemorate "all the blood that was spilt".

In 1923 the French Govern-ment began to reafforest much of the land. "But when people

leave the paths, that's when

they face most danger," says

only danger. At the end of the

war, entrances to the network

of underground tunnels built by both sides were covered

over and their exact location

often forgotten. The wood has

rotted," says M Dubeaux, pointing to a hole that was

once, he says, the entrance to

an underground field hospital.

"Fall into one of those and

Looking out over the tran-

quil green fields of Verdun, it

is hard to imagine this as the

setting for killing and heroism on such a scale. It was here

that General Philippe Pétain

you'll stay there."

Shells and gas are not the

Eighty years have not tamed Verdun killing fields

Greatest battle of attrition in history still claims victims

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN VERDUN

MORE than 80 years after the guns fell silent at Verdun the death toll from that epic First World War slaughter contin-ues to mount, for beneath the former battlefield lies an immense arsenal of rusting but unexploded shells.

Last month two men were killed when they found and apparently tampered with a live bomb, one of millions left over from the Battle of Verdun in 1916. A dozen others have died in the same way over the past five years after stumbling across intact shells, grenades and gas bombs, the grim postscript to a terrible mutual

On February 21, 1916, the German Army launched its assault on the French lines at Verdun with a massive artillery attack, "an intense ninehour bombardment, unpre-cedented in warfare, in the words of the British historian. Martin Gilbert.

Over the next nine months the deadlocked armies hurled million shells at one another. "Their bombardment is infernal ...," one French officer recorded.

In the first month German soldiers died at the rate of one every 45 seconds, but the French troops were killed even faster as the Kaiser's generals tried time and again to break through and march on Paris. More than 650,000 soldiers

perished at Verdun, "the greatest battle of attrition in history", in a conflict that has left behind not only an eternal memorial to the pointless horror of war but also a fantastic quantity of explosives.

At least one fifth of the shells fired at Verdun, roughly 4.5 million separate explosives, did not detonate but vanished from sight into the soft earth, taking their murderous payloads with them.

"We will never, ever, be able to make this place safe," says Henry Bélot, the head of the Metz-based bomb disposal to find intact munitions in the battlefields of northern France, defuse them, destroy



Verdun, 1916: the war to end all wars has left shells, grenades and gas bombs, the grim postscript to a terrible mutual massacre among the French and the Germans

them or, in the case of chemical weapons, store them until international law decides their

Last year alone M Bélot and his team collected a staggering 130 tonnes of unexploded ordnance: small anti-personnel missiles, massive French 220" cannon shells weighing 400lb apiece, phosgene and mustard gas canisters. Every ploughed field turns up a fresh crop of bombs, every freeze and thaw sends shells burrowing buck to the surface, the locals say.

"If they could be left to rot, there would be little danger. But people collect them, carry them home, put them in their gardens for children to play with or try to take them apart." M Bélot says. "These things don't go off on their own. Every year someone is

killed. They don't know what they are doing."
As the livid purple scars on

M Bélot's neck attest, the weapons are fickle enemies even for the most experienced demineur. A former army explosives expert, M Bélot has himself been gassed three times handling the canisters.

In a single morning this week, the latter-day sappers collected more than 40 shells

from the fields around the tiny village of Champneuville, once the heart of the Verdun battlefield. Whenever the villagers find shells, they call out M Bélot and his team. If the munitions are considered too dangerous to move, they are exploded on the spot but usually they are loaded on to the back of a lorry, taken to an army base and blown up.

We find them all the time,"

petrol pump. battle were two non-commis-

says Jean-Pierre Dubeaux, Mayor of Chamoneuville. "But in the summer the tourists come, looking for souvenirs." M Dubeaux recalls that he once came across a party of German holidaymakers loading three French 155 shells into the back of their Mercedes, parked next to the village

The latest casualties of the

sioned officers from a helicopter regiment who had apparently wandered off the path through a wood and come across some shells. "We still don't know exactly what they were doing," M Belot shrugs glumly.

leashed at Verdun literally saturated the landscape at the rate of one bomb for every square yard, reducing nine

declared "they shall not pass", and here, too, that the young Charles de Gaulle was taken Verdun is to the collective memory of France what the Somme is to Britain: a monument, a scar and a warning. The torrent of artillery un-

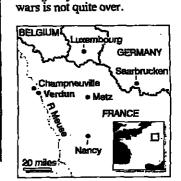
At the end of the day, the sappers' lorry bumps off down the track through Champneuville, with more than half a tonne of earth-caked explo-

> reduce this village to the same razed state it was left in at the end of 1916. As Alistair Horne has written: "Neither side 'won' at Verdun. It was the indecisive battle in an indecisive war; the unnecessary hattle in an unnecessary war; the battle that

sives in the back, enough to

had no victors." The death and injury that still stalks Verdun today may be an apt symbol of that bloody futility, a powerful reminder that the destruction wrought by the war to end all

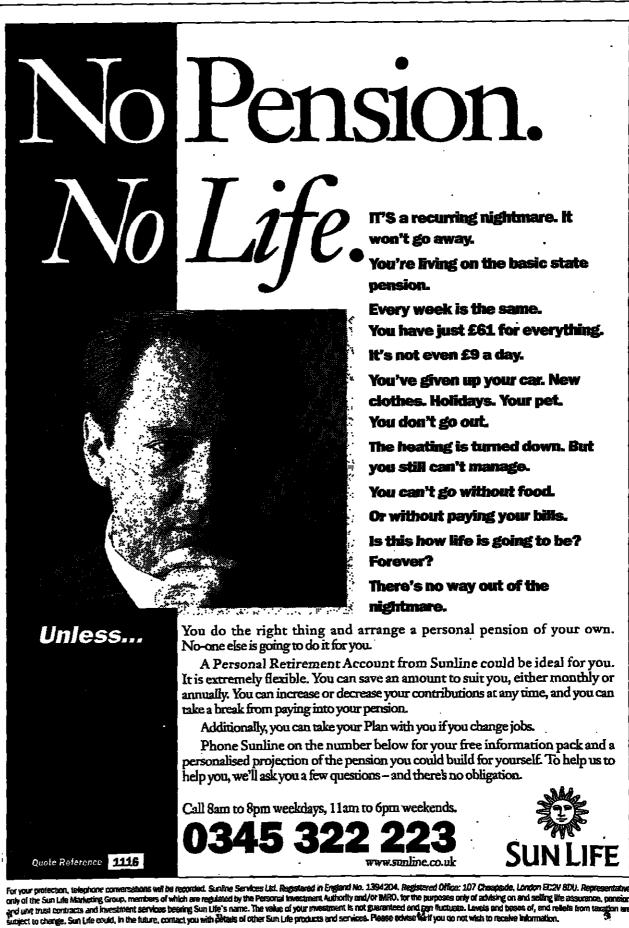
had no victors, in a war that





Sapper Laurent Flaunder, left, carries a 99lb shell to safety in the village of Champneuville as M Bélot, wearing a gas mask, checks a couple of others found this week





Clinton: a sitting target

Clinton determined not to be pushed around by Russia in Finland

IN HELSINKI

THE wheelchair summit as even American officials are now calling it, is giving President Clinton's image-makers an impossible task.

How can they keep the cartoonists and their metaphors at bay? How can they stop President Yeltsin from trying to push his ailing rival not only around the world stage, but also around the corridors where they are meeting? It is bad enough that all talk of Mr Clinton standing tall, striding forward or marching shoulder to

shoulder with the Russian leader

SKETCH

also decided that they would not allow their man to be pictured sitting down while Mr Yeltsin towered above him. The cameras were therefore not allowed into the elegant presidential residence by the Baltic until both men were in

their chairs. Whether Boris really offered to push Bill's chair is unclear. But there was a heated pre-summit discussion among the American minders and diplomats. "Absolutely not," a senior figure was heard to say. "It's completely out of the quite escaped officials. "The President continues to enjoy the realities of adjusting to summitry in a wheelchair," Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, an-nounced, po-faced, yesterday. Mr Clinton was not feeling his

best in any case after his night at the Intercontinental hotel. "I had a terrible night," he told Mr Yeltsin. "I thought you'd bired an extra large Finn to jump up and down on the ceiling above my room."

The problem, it turned out, was simpler but no less Finnish: someone was using the hotel sauna above his suite, and the pipes kept clanking on and off.

He may also have been peckish. The dinner a trois given by Presi-

medically approved low-fat menu to ensure that nothing put a strain on Mr Yeltsin's heart consomme, fish and reindeer. But both Mr Ahtisaari, a comfortably padded figure, and Mr Clinton, a renowned trencherman, are also under official orders to watch their weight, so they too were forbidden second

There was a choice of fine wine, though traditional Russian secrecy did not reveal whether Mr Yeltsin succumbed to the temptation. In Helsinki's bars and restaurants a special "Boris" concoction, named his honour by enterprising harmen who have dreamt up a special cocktail for each of the three leaders, is far outselling the other two. Finland's leading vodka producer has even produced a summit vodka, and 10,000 bottles of the purest Finlandia carry a commemorative label - each one, alas, giving the wrong date, as they were printed before Mr Clinton's injury

delayed the meeting. But if the leaders were sparing with their toasts, they were gener-

ous with mutual praise.
"I think we'll have a good meeting." Mr Clinton said before he started the talks.

"I think both sides are ready to meet each other," Mr Yeltsin echoed. And with just a touch of his old

sian leader added: "Yesterday we warmed each other up, so that today there won't be such tensions at the negotiations."

They probably enjoyed the soothing Baltic views from the presidential residence. The award-winning granite, glass and pine building, completed only four years ago, is intended to suggest the craggy bedrock of Finland after the Ice Age receded. Last night it was also the setting for the dinner that Mr Clinton offered Mr Yeltsin. All the Finnish crockery was hastily put away, and replaced by boxloads of White House china.

Leading article, page 25

Summit leaders put on brave face over Nato impasse

THE Helsinki summit meeting between President Clinton and President Yeltsin ended in deadlock yesterday when the two men failed to resolve their deep-seated differences on the

future of European security.

In a meeting which could mark a turning point in post-Cold War history, the Russian and American leaders agreed to disagree over Nato's contentious plans to extend its membership eastwards.

in soite of warm handshakes, friendly remarks and a commitment to forge ahead

characterised the ten previous meetings between the two men was absent this time in "We did not come expecting

to change each other's minds about disagreements, but we both did come here hoping to find a way of shifting the accent of our disagreement to the goals, tasks and opportunities we share - and we have succeeded," said Mr Clinton, describing the modest achievements of his negotiations.

Speaking after a day of intensive talks at the Finnish

'Step forward' hailed

Nato Secretary-General, who is mandated with negotiating a Nato-Russia pact, praised the summit as a major step forward in developing a more secure and peaceful Europe. An official statement by Nato said Señor Solana was "especially encouraged" by President Yeltsin's commit-

ment to conclude a deal with the alliance in the near future. SeñorSolana, who is negotiating the pact to go hand in hand with the alliance's eastwards expansion, is due to meet Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, for more talks next month.

although there was no deal on enlargement at the summit, it appeared Mr Yeltsin had

been assured Russia would

not be left out of a new post-

Cold War security order. Strobe Talbott, US Assistant Secretary of State, will brief Nato's 16 ambassadors on the summit at a meeting in Brussels today, "The overall climate looked good, and it seems there has been progress across the field," said a senior Nato official. He said President Clinton's number one goal — to convince Mr Yeltsin Nato was not hostile — had been met (Reuter)

Clinton dismissed suggestions that his daylong efforts had been a failure and insisted that they had "succeeded" in laying the groundwork for future co-

On the question of Nato expansion, it was agreed that Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, will work on producing a Nato-Russia document in the coming weeks. The agreement, to be signed by all 16 Nato members, would grant Russia the right to co-ordinate with the alliance on policymaking and give Moscow assurances that no nuclear weapons or military infrastructure would be deplayed on the territory of the new member states, Poland. the Czech Republic and

Hungary.
Mr Yeltsin, who reiterated that the move was a "serious mistake", sounded resigned rather than enthusiastic about the fudge that he had just concluded. "I would say that emotions sometimes get the upper hand in assessing Russian-American partnership." he said. "We want to overcome that which divided us for decades. We want to do away with the past mistrust and animosity. We can't accomplish this immediately." Mr Clinton said that the

Naina Yeltsin, centre, wife of the Russian leader, is accompanied by President Ahtisaari of Finland on a shopping trip in Helsinki yesterday summit was an agreement to limit Russian and American strategic nuclear weapons under Start 3 to 2,000-2,500 munist hardliners. each by 2007, a reduction of 80

Cold War peak. However, the new treaty can only come into effect once the Russian Duma, the lower house of parliament, ratifies the Start 2 treaty, a move

per cent compared with the

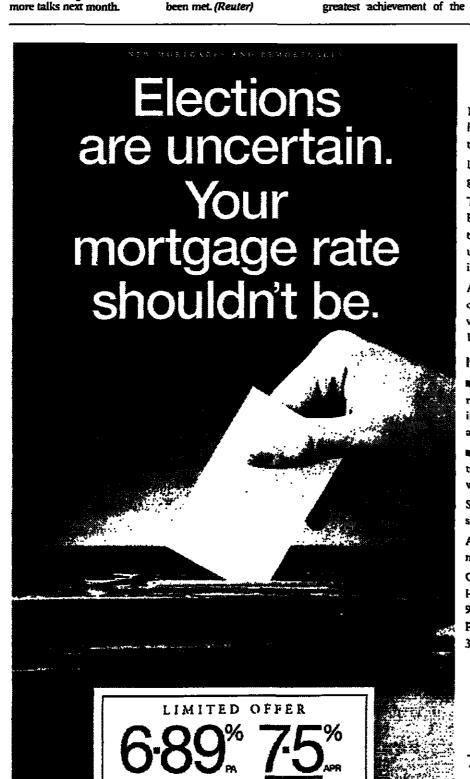
which seem highly doubtful given that the assembly is currently dominated by com-

One area where there appeared to be genuine progress was on economic relations. The Americans have pledged to help Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation and the Paris Club. Also, Mr Clinton said that the forthcoming meeting of the G7 in Denver, would now be known as the "Summit of the Eight" because Russia would have a

seat at the table. Nevertheless, the careful wording and upbeat declarations of the two men could not disguise the problems ahead. Russia is expected to reach a compromise on Nato enlargement because it has little choice in the matter. In addition, the Russian leader will have little he can take home to Moscow today and sell to his disgruntled population as a

For Mr Yeltsin, Helsinki will be remembered as the summit where he proved to the world that he is very much back on physical form and capable of dealing with complex matters of international security and trade. He also proved that, however heated the rhetoric with the West over Nato, he still has a good working relationship with Mr

Clinton For the American leader, the two-day trip to Finland proved that he has much work left to do in Europe in the second half of his presidency.



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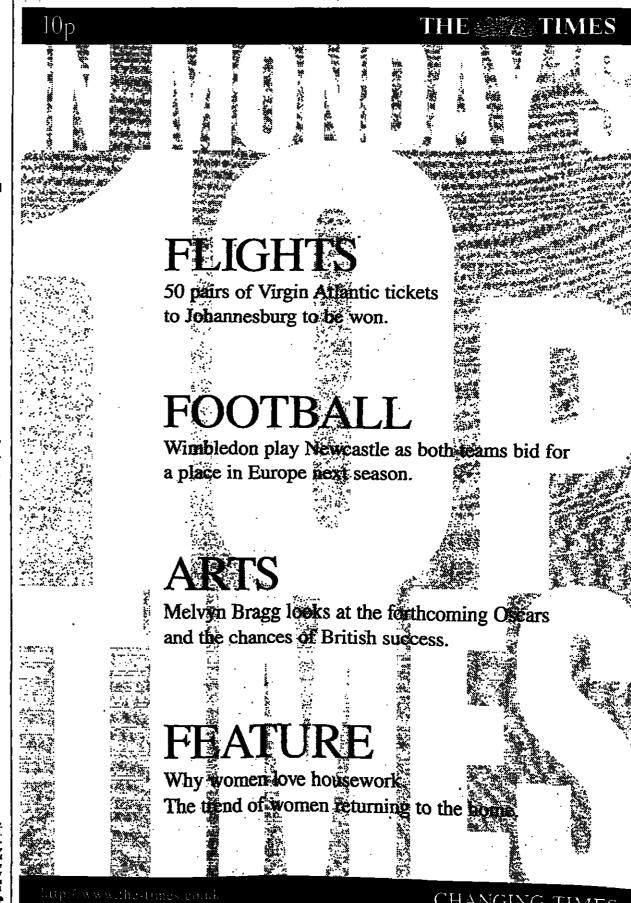
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Infighter faces new contest

pean Union - but did not

stand again. Instead, she now has a full-

time job as the first special

rapporteur for human rights

in the lormer Yugoslavia. She

left Helsinki yesterday for another visit looking at the

slow and painful progress

towards family reunion and

refugee rights in Bosnia,

ersity began their jeu d'esprit

— a joke that has now won a

world audience, especially in

Italy, America and the

It goes out on domestic and

short-wave radio, and has

brought Finnish broadcast-

ing more attention than any-

Three books of collected

broadcasts have been pub-

in America, as "notorious

Dr Jeffrey Lerner, of Ecri, a

Pennsylvania-based medical

safety charity, yesterday urged patients not to panic. "Most

surgeons nowadays tend to

double glove," he pointed out.

"There is a certain failure rate permitted by the authorities

for latex gloves and I would

say there is only extremely low

probability of infection from

inferior gloves." Most latex

gloves used in the US are

was satisfied that manufactur-

ers were keeping pace with

germ factories".

thing else it does.

Ayala Lasso, the United Nations' lacklustre first High Commissioner for Human Rights, is being led by two women: one still serving as her country's President, the other who narrowly missed winning the presidency two years ago. If Elisabeth Rehn wins over

The state of the s

Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland, she will continue a long Finnish tradition of high office in the United Nations. Her countrymen, naturally, are rooting for her.

She very nearly became President, having been the favourite in the brief campaign which she fought against Martti Ahtisaari, now HELSINKI FILE by MICHAEL BINYON

the host at the Yeltsin-Clinton summit. But she peaked too early - upset, perhaps, by a television question on whether anyone had the intellectual right to doubt that Jesus existed. "Yes," she said. Lu-

theran Finland did not agree. She went instead to Strasbourg, a leader of Finland's MEPs who took their seats after Finland joined the Euro-

ing to hold the former warring parties to their commit-

There is a real worry now about the Albanians in Kosovo. She is pessimistic about the situation there," Bjorn Teir, her political assis-

Mrs Rehn, 61, comes from a minority herself. She is a Swedish speaker, part of the 6 per cent minority in Finland who once wielded disproportionate social and economic influence but have seen their status and language eroded. She was leader of the

Swedish People's Party in Parliament, and managed to combine a gracious and demure image as a wife and mother of four with some tough political inlighting. Ri-vals in her centre-right party wanted to outmanoeuvre her in 1990 by naming her De-fence Minister for an interim

Instead, she served for four and a half years - a postwar record in the job - during which Finland's entire defence strategy changed. The Gulf War, the collapse of the Soviet Union and independence for the Baltic states all necessitated a rethink of traditional neutrality.

She travelled to Russia and America, played hostess to Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, in Lapland, and bought \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) worth of F18 fighter planes in 1991 - a 10-year commitment that was twice



Elisabeth Rehn: combines a gracious and demure image as a wife and mother with tough political skills

the annual defence budget. Elegant, feminine and softspoken, her time at defence belied the image of a politician for soft issues: the Red Cross, Unicel, Third World development and the World Wide Fund for Nature. She used to fly aerobatics with air force pilots; she went out in a

search party for a sunken

amphibious armoured personnel carrier. She even tried to gatecrash a strategy planning sauna of her flustered top generals with the words: Do you have anything to

But while holding the masculine defence portfolio, she was also Minister for Wom-en's Equality. She is now as

likely to speak out on wornen's issues as on defence, where she is an outspoken and still rare - advocate of a more hawkish policy, including full membership of Nato (anathema to Moscow).

Mrs Rehn reports regularly to Geneva on the abuses, human rights violations and pitiful living conditions she finds now in Bosnia and other parts of former Yugoslavia. If post of UN High Commissioner, she intends to give greater profile to the job that, under its first incumbent from Ecuador, has so far made little headway in ending human rights abuses throughout the world.

Finnish appeal to Latin lovers

AFTER a final check to mark in the long vowels and polish the syntax, the two newsreaders began with the summit: "Praesidentes Bill Clinton et Boris Yeltsin Helsinkium venerunt, ut die Veneris de summis rebus

consilia communicarent ..." Latin listeners the world over had their radios tuned to Finland for Nuntii Latini, the world's only weekly five-minute bulletin in the language of Cicero.

"Actually it's not really Ciceronian Latin; more medieval," Dr Reijo Pitkaranta, Reader in Latin at the Univ-

RUBBER gloves worn by sur-

geons and medical workers

are not nearly as safe as is

widely believed, according to

Many brands of latex gloves

were found to be porous to

certain viruses and the gloves,

having been seen as an ally of

cleanliness, may be to blame

for some dangerous infections. The use of gloves in hospi-

tals and medical centres has

increased in recent years, due to the rise in Aids, but a study

by the Medical Device Tech-

nologies, in San Diego, found

failings in 11 different popular

brands tested in the survey.

an American study.



gisms are a constant prob-lem, and a focus of the hundreds of letters Nuntii Latini receives each week.

It is seven years since Dr Pitkaranta and Professor

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

Many showed a tendency to

leak within minutes of a water

test, when the gloves were

gloves had been approved by

the Food and Drug Adminis-

tration, yet these, too, proved

unequal to the task of stopping

the spread of germs.

The FDA said it had not yet

studied the results of the

About two million hospital

patients a year in America become infected during treat-

ment and 77,000 are said to die

as a result. One doctor yester-

day described hospitals, even

More than 20 per cent of the

filled with liquid.

ished and the Finns - never part of the Roman Empire are to host the prestigious five-yearly gathering of world Latinists this August. Now schools are turning to the classical web site: (http://www.yle.fi/fbc/lati-Pekkanen of Jyvaskyla Univ-

Surgical gloves 'let in viruses' subway halt

Athens: Work on a mile-long stretch of the planned Athens underground has been suspended after alleged cost overruns and complaints that the tunnelling is destroying priceless relics.

The Environment Ministry ordered a halt to work on the section from central Syntagma Square to Kerameikos, claiming that the contracting consortium was demanding too much money. The move heartened archaeologists, who said the cemedestroyed. The site dates from Pericles, the politician born in 490 BC.

Athens orders | Crowd chaos closes Florence museums

BY RICHARD OWEN

A MASSIVE crush of visitors forced the temporary closure of two of Florence's most celebrated museums, a week before Italy's annual Easter tourist invasion.

Both the Uffizi Gallery and the Galleria dell'Accademia, which houses Michelangelo's David, had to close their doors amid scenes of chaos. However, city officials said that the situation would be

could change in the future. Calls may be monitored or recorded.

under control for Easter. Antonio Paolucci, Superintendent of Fine Arts. said that Thursday had been "Florence's day of hell". The museums had been unable to cope with the combined pressure of foreign tourists and Italian schoolchildren, who are entitled by law to visit

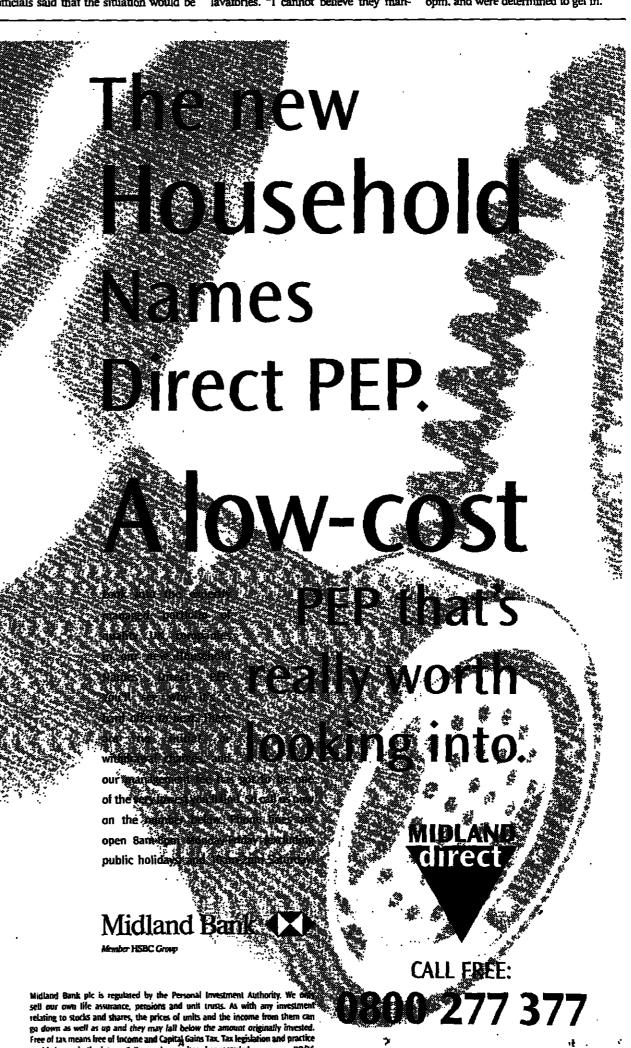
museums free. "Unruly children" had run amok, breaking fire extinguishers and smashing lavatories. "I cannot believe they managed to do so much damage," Signor Paolucci said. None of the works of art was damaged.

Custodians at the Uffizi, which houses Renaissance masterpieces, sounded the alarm when they saw a "record number of visitors" packed into the space in front of the gallery. Licia Bertani, a custodian. said that some visitors had panicked on learning that the ticket office closed at 6pm, and were determined to get in.

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MUSIC

John Harle takes one of the solo saxophone parts as Horn Horn is premiered in Liverpool



Captain Cook's voyages are commemorated in a fine new show at the National

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MUSEUMS

THE TIMES



■ WHAT'S ON From Darcey

Bussell, leaping into action in La Bayadère at Covent Garden ...



■ WHAT'S ON:

.. to Aussie singer Peter Andre on tour. the weekend's top events are in The Directory

Double dose of solo sax

FULFILLING all the Liverpool requirements of new music - concerted saxophone sound, jazz rhythms allied with minimalist repetition, a smart title - Andrew Poppy's Horn Horn was greeted with all due cordiality on its introduction to the Philharmonic Hall. If it seemed rather long long. Horn Horn was consistently entertaining at least as a study in the compatibility of

the two alto saxophonists. Harnessed together for much of the time, in rhythmic if not harmonic unison. John Harle and Simon Haram were each allowed the occasional opportunity to emerge on a comparatively thoughtful solo line from their joint virtuoso endeavours. Brief and few though those moments of individuality are, they usefully offset the heavy industrial activity which, betCONCERT

RLPO/Fujioka Liverpool

ween the deceptively opening and closing bars, characterises the score as a whole. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra might have felt that it had been there before - as in some ways it has in its recent work on behalf of Glass, Fitkin and Gardiner but it betrayed no hint of any such thing in an admirably

first performance. Sachio Fujioka is a conduc-tor well suited to that kind of thing. In Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet no less than in Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony he was effective in highlight-

high-energy all-or-nothing

ing the dramatic event, in intensifying the dynamic pressure, in hammering home the structural nails. He did not, on the other hand, secure the most attractive sound the RLPO can offer. Indeed, there were times in the Prokofiev when the violins were unacceptably gruff, the cellos in disarray, the brass overprominent, the balance generally awry. And yet there were also moments when unconventional balance revealed not only unfamiliar textural details but also a more mordant kind of irony than is common-ly attributed to this work. If only he could have got the rest

been an illuminating interpre-

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CONCERTS

London visit (from Friday she will be berthed at Greenwich! before embarking on a 14-port tour of the United Kingdom. Constructed in Australia to the same specifications as Cook's ship - though enjoying the advantage of engines - this Endeavour was launched in Fremantle in December 1993 and has sailed to Britain via South Africa, St Helena and Madeira.

scale replica of

Captain Cook's

famous ship En-

deavour arrives at Tower

Bridge for a three-week

The National Maritime Museum is complementing the visit with an exhibition. Cook and the Endeavour, that displays 18th-century charts. paintings, models and personal effects. These illustrate Cook's Pacific expeditions, as well as the background which created the man, his ships, his backers and those painters who have conferred immortality on his exploits.

Dominating the visual material are the paintings of William Hodges, who accompanied Cook on the second of his voyages from 1772 onwards. The artist who had been with the Endeavour voyage of 1768-71 was Sydney Cook's tour of beauty

A replica *Endeavour* and records of

the captain's travels are set to dock in London. Peter Davies reports

Parkinson. His remit was. however, the very necessary, if imiting, one of recording the botanical specimens which had been collected by Sir Joseph Banks, who had buliled the Royal Society and the Admiralty into letting him join Cook's expedition at his own expense. Fortunately for history, when Cook mounted his second expedition Banks came to the conclusion that he had had enough of life at sea and Parkinson's services were not

required. Wanting something more from an artist than a mere recorder of fauna and flora. Cook accepted the services of Hodges, a rising landscape

painter who had learnt his art in the studio of Richard Wilson. He could scarcely have made a better choice. Hodges brought to his land and seascapes the atmospheric, Claudesque manner of his master. Wilson. But in the course of a long sea voyage, he acquired something of the naval officer's exactitude of eye. Details such as native war canoes, the rigging of ships and the pitching of the expedition's tents on shore are ren-

dered with scientific precision. The Hodges paintings fall into two categories. There are small-scale studies, completed on the spot, in which exactitude of detail is the paramount

consideration. The large canvases, done when Hodges got home (he was given two years' employment by the Admiralry at £250 per annum) are, rather, a case of emotion recollected in tranquillity.

Combining both Hodges's practical and his "atmospheric" modes is A View of the Cape of Good Hope from on board the Resolution (1772). The draughtsmanship of the Cape settlement and its compact mass of dwellings is admirably executed. But, up above, the atmospherist takes over in the grim crags of Table Mountain and the storm

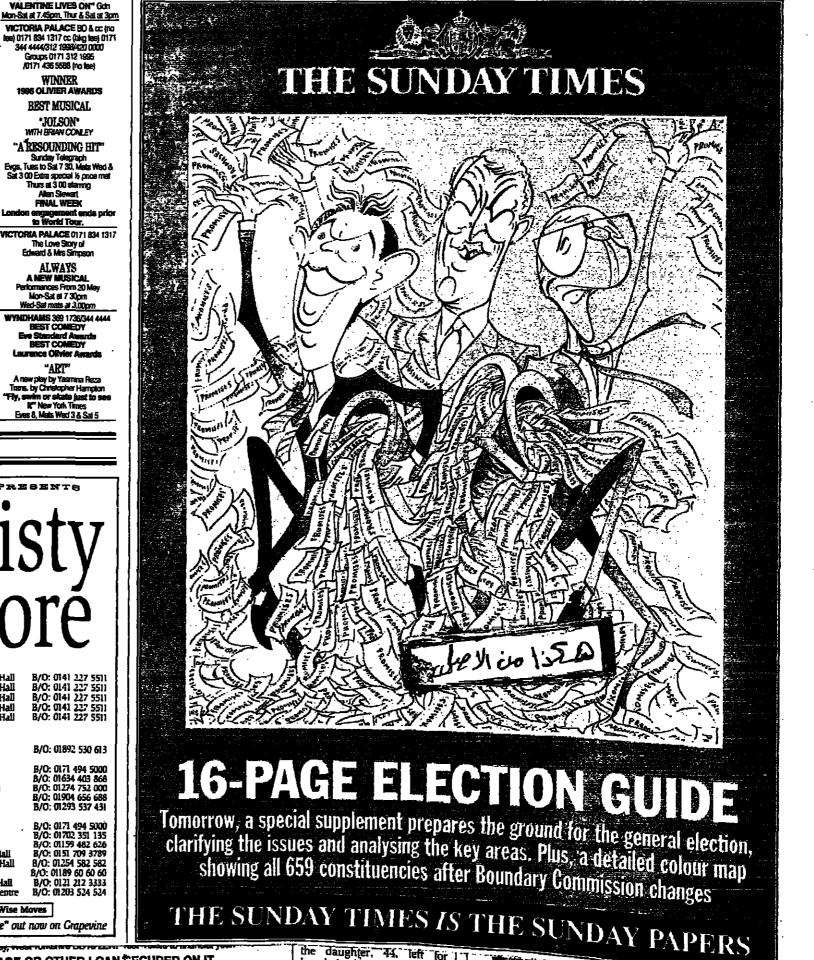
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clouds swirling about them. An interesting comparison is to be made between Hodges's portrait of Cook, Captain James Cook, and the much more famous picture of Captain James Cook, RN, FRS, by Sir Nathaniel Dance. In the second, we have a formalised study of the naval hero, conscious of achievement and honour. But from Hodges we get the practical mariner, a man with a job to do, soundings to take, surveys to make, and a shipload of men to get home in one piece.

Cook and the Endeavour is at the National Maritime Museum Greenwich. SE10 (0181-858 4422) from Monday to Sept 28



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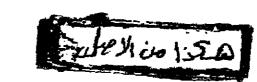
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OPINION

Leave well alone: turning Elgar's deathbed sketches into a symphony would be a travesty



THEATRE

At the Old Vic Caryl Churchill's Cloud Nine explores sexual ambiguity in a fine revival





POP

Mike Henderson displays his blues credentials, and a surprise guest, at the Borderline



ON MONDAY

The Brits are coming? Melvyn Bragg assesses our chances of carrying off a clutch of Oscars

Tas there a small earth tremor in the lovely churchyard of Little Malvern this week? If so, it must have been Sir Edward Elgar turning in his grave, as news filtered down through the daffodils that his Third Symphony is to be "completed" by Anthony Payne.

ie, a decent composer but (until now) a name unlikely to be uttered in the same breath as Elgar's, apparently has the blessing of the "Elgar family": a bunch of second-generation acolytes, none of them direct descendants. More alarmingly, he also appears to have the endorsement of the BBC, which commissioned the dying Elgar to write a Third Symphony in 1933 and now intends to premiere something masquerading under that title in 1998.

With almost his last breath. Elgar forbade "finkering" with his Third Symphony sketches. Anyone who has examined them, and has any knowledge of Elgar's complex and intuitive way of working out his symphonic Don't tinker with Elgar's last notes

thoughts, will understand why. They are an incoherent jumble of raw ideas, barely formed. The tragedy is not that Elgar never lived to pull them together, but that he surely knew all along that he was incapable of rekindling his creative fire, extinguished 14 years earlier when his wife died. But Elgar was always short of

money, and he was also a master of kidology. Witness his endless supply of red herrings about the Enigma Variations, or the cryptograms hidden in such works as the Violin Concerto. So he accepted a handsome advance for a new symphony, and set about kidding the BBC, his friends and perhaps even himself that it was "practically complete". No wonder that, on his deathbed, he suddenly gabbled that "no one would understand" the sketches. The truth is, there is

ed to reconstruct the symphony before now. There was no legal barrier. Elgar was out of copyright between 1984 and 1995 (the year in which the meddlesome European Union extended copyright from 50 to 70 years after an author's death). During those II years the sketches were anybody's for the tinkering, and there are plenty of opportunistic scholars around

ing musical torsos has grown into ghoulish industry. A whole generation of academics is paying off mortgages on the backs of geniuses who are no longer around to say no. Music-lovers have already enjoyed such lictions as "Beethoven's Tenth Symphony" and "Tchaikovsky's Seventh". Schubert's Unfinished is unfinished no longer — at least, not if you trust the instincts of a Hull

Indeed, the practice of complet-



music professor. "Mahler's Tenth", completed by another played; and Mozart's Requiem has been completed more times than The Times crossword.

Turandot (which Puccini neglected to finish before he died) is invariably used today, although when Toscanini premiered Turandot he stopped melodramatically at the point where "the master laid down his pen". More recently, Alban Berg's opera Lulu was completed secretly against his widow's wishes and performed complete when she died. And two years ago Covent Garden premiered a "re-creation" of a fragmentary Monteverdi opera,

professor, Alexander Goehr. Such exercises will always hold a fascination, especially for the many music-lovers who are much more excited by the past than the present. Here are ordinary minds struggling to fathom the logic of genius; sleuths sifting through clues on dead men's desks. What

Arianna, by the Cambridge music

does that squiggle signify? Is that a minim or an ink-blot?

But there is something unconvincing about this latest Elgar wheeze. The fact is, we have been through these unrewarding hoops before. Only three years ago, Cambridge students gave the pre-miere of "Elgar's opera, The Spanish Lady : yet another major work that Elgar was, allegedly, close to finishing when he died.

lgar devotees came from far and wide to hear this com-pletion by an eminent scholar. We were crushingly disappointed. Elgar's sketches proved either to be pastiches or revamped youthful scraps. I fear that any premiere of his "Third Symphony" will be a similarly barren occasion. I do not know what Anthony Payne's invention will be like, but I do know that his claim that it will be "pure Elgar" is pure piffle. And outrageous presumption. And pos-sibly prosecutable under the Trade

Descriptions Act.
Of course it is natural that British audiences should crave one last masterpiece from the only Romantic genius in our musical history. But we have to accept that Elgar had a comparatively brief burst of brilliance: 25 years out of 76, at the most. Before that, he was a talented hack; afterwards, a broken reed.

He himself sensed the transience of his powers. At the climax of his most sublime movement, the First Symphony's Adagio, he in-scribed Hamlet's words: "The rest is silence." At the head of his Second Symphony he quoted Shelley: "Rarely, rarely, comest thou, Spirit of Delight."

You certainly don't sense any Spirit of Delight in the jottings for the Third Symphony; only the pathos of an old man trying to revive his hour of hope and glory. His last musical testament should

Straight to the point of gay

were not subject to the laws that until recently oppressed gay men is supposed to be that nobody dared to challenge Queen Victoria's conviction that homosexual acts between

women were impossible. Perhaps someone should have time-warped her to a performance of Caryl Chur-chill's Cloud Nine, which involves the erotic confusions of her subjects and their descendants. Either she would have stumbled from the play convinced that John Brown was a secret pederast who fancied her because deep inside her regal exterior she was brattishly male, or, more likely, she would have passed out at around the time a young homosexual decides he is at root a gay woman attracted to

Churchill wrote Cloud Nine in 1979 and, even though Aids has since added yet another wrinkle to her attack on sexual hypocrisy, it still seems a remarkably topical play. It is also belatedly clear that it marked the definitive arrival of a major dramatist. Three years later, Churchill came up with Top Girls, a play that still seems the sharpest rumination on feminism the theatre has produced. But in Cloud

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THEATRE

Cloud Nine. Old Vic

Nine she played equally bold games with a still broader topic: the difficulty of pinning down people's gender in the first place.

Be warned. The play is often fun, but it ventures into areas that people of pervous disposition may find disturbing. A man plays a lovelorn wife, a woman a small boy who hates being separated from his sister's dolly, another man a little girl who likes guns; and all to show that nature and nurture, id and super-ego, true feelings and social roles, have often been desperately at odds.

The opening act, set in darkest Africa in 1879, is a spoof of the 19th-century sexual hothouse. Drums rumble. The natives are restless. Tim McInnerny's Clive, the colonial administrator, is forced to use the whip. But the real jungle, the true rebellion, is inner. Although he spouts platitudes about Victorian values and thinks he means them, he is pursuing a lady planter. Meanwhile, the governess hankers for his wife,

THE SEE TIMES

who has bedded his son and now tries to seduce Clive himself. Result: guilt, repentance, threats of scandal and suicide, promises of reform. appeals to the manly virtues, and the enforced marriage of a gay man to a lesbian.

Churchill's inventiveness is not spent. Act II updates the action to a London park in 1979, but reintroduces us to some of Act I's characters, who have aged only 25 years, in the process turning from carica-tures into more or less real people. The colonial wife has left her oppressive husband. Her son is a gentle, possessive homosexual who irritates his promiscuous lover, and her her husband. Happiness is still elusive. Cloud Nine has not been reached. But the characters acknowledge, understand and accept their and others' desires a bit more.

There are some super per formances in Tom Cairns's production, notably from McInnerny, Marion Bailey, Stephen Noonan and Janine Duvitski, who somehow transmutes herself from a larky boy in a sailor suit into a touchingly innocent old lady. Together they make it clear that, at least in the theatre, Churchill was the first to ask and answer what are now familar questions: can the intricacies of sex be summed up in terms such as "straight", "gay", or even "man" and "woman"? No. for that is to expect mercury to be

> BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Native fauna sets the scene for Marion Bailey and Tim McInnerny in Cloud Nine

Even Handel sometimes mishandled

HANDEL'S Alessandro Severo (1738) is not to be confused with his earlier *Alessandro* of 1726. The former is a pasticcio, ie, cobbled together from existing music to fill a gap in one of the composer's last London opera seasons; it was pre-miered shortly before Xernes, and has not been seen since, This latest collaboration bethe London Royal Schools' Vocal Faculty and the London Handel Festival showed clearly why. You might think that Han-

del would have strung together a series of hit numbers from his previous works for the occasion, but it seemed more a matter of runts of the litter holding a special place in the affections of their progenitors. A nice "breeze" simile-aria from Giustino, a martial number for bass from Ezio and — a veritable oasis amidst so much Handel-by-the-yard - Con l'ali di costanza from Ariodante, and that's about it, and it's not much in three

The moral of Apostolo Zeno's 20-year-old libretto is

There is not a lot that a **OPERA** Alessandro Severo Royal College of Music

'never sign a document unread, even if it's handed to you by your mother". The wet Roman Emperor Alexander Severus does this and finds he's divorced his wife of whom the original mother-in-law-from-hell Julia Mamaea does not approve. The score does less than justice to this promising situation, and the subplot peters out into an inferior rerun of the assassination conspiracy in Tamerlano.

director can do with this material, but Mike Ashman might have tried a bit harder. Indeed, during the first hour, with scrappy playing, dull ing, and only one singer — the bright, stylish Mary Nelson as the discarded Empress - delivering anything like the goods, the purpose of this whole collaboration was constantly called into serious

Luckily Denys Darlow and his band started to distil proper Handelian spirit in the second act, and the other singers seemed to have warmed up (in general principle, it is better to warm

a performance). The American counter-tenor Lawrence Zazzo fielded very promising tone as the Emperor (he is to sing in Semele at Santa Fe this year). and the bass James Rutherford tamed his hitherto unruly tuning, relishing the wide leaps in his big number. The Swedish mezzo Jenny Grahn sang smoothly in an unrewarding role, and Hilary Dolamore rather less securely in one equally so. The Dowa-ger Empress was beyond Alison Kettlewell's current capabilities, but she had a good try. All round, though, a pretty grisly evening.

RODNEY MILNES

Not the greatest story

FOR various good reasons, the biggest biblical subjects have almost always inspired oratorio rather than opera-True. Wagner once planned to write a five-act opera called Jesus von Nazareth, but with uncharacteristic humility realised that the theme was too big

Step forward Jill Townsend, composer of The Promise, premiered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall this week by the evangelical group Opera Brava. Her opera is the result of the company's work in schools, and it is written for children's chorus and professional soloists. The Promise. based on the major events of St Luke's Gospel and the Acts & churches or schools in a

of the Apostles, does not aim to be the last word in operatic refinement, but it is described as a "full-length" work.

At this performance it seemed too long, given the lack of dramatic flow and the unrelenting moderato of the music. The score is a succession of cheerful melodies, inflected with the odd augmented second for Middle Eastern effect. Cacophonous outbursts punctuate the plot, for instance when Satan is stalking the stage - the Devil doesn't get the best tunes, for once. The conductor, Keith Willis, his orchestra and a welldrilled chorus did their best. The piece might work in

tighter staging. But here the director, Adrian Hilton, did little more than direct traffic. Few of the principals projected with any stage presence, and Hilton's idea of an agitated crowd was to let the children scream, playground-style.

As Jesus, the tenor David Ashmore-Turner coped well with the high tessitura of the part, and Christopher Parke was a solid John the Baptist. lwona Januszajtis (Gabriel) and Amanda Buckland (Mary) were more than adequate, but Judy Slater's bright Mary Magdalene gave the evening's only complete vocal and dramatic performance.

nIOHN ALLISON

Mike plus Mark

SOME nights turn out to be rather special, and this was one of them: a gig to remember from Mike Henderson and the Bluebloods at the Borderline, WC2.

Missouri-born Henderson was out to display his credentials as a born-again bluesman after spending most of his career as a country singer and songwriter. The gap between "new country" and the blues may not appear that wide, but it is rare for an artist to appeal to both camps.

Henderson brings to the blues vitality, freshness and a technical brilliance forged during countless Nashville sessions — hence the impeccable slide guitar work on numbers such as Sonny Boy Williamson's So Sad to Be Lonesome. What he appears to have left behind is the ability to produce original material: a disappointment from someone who has written for both Randy Travis and Trisha

line when Henderson announced a "surprise guest" and up popped Mark

BLUES

Knopfler. Unless I am mistaken. opportunities to watch from six feet away as Knopfler plays an hour of solid blues guitar are not too frequent these days. As he traded licks with Henderson, backed solidly by drummer John Gardner, bassist Glenn Worf and keyboard player Gregg Wetzel, it was apparent just why a live gig can be so much better than ... anything you could hear on

Knopfler, fluent and dazzling, provided an effective counterpoint to Henderson's darker, more brooding slide guitar solos on numbers such as Don't Throw Your Love on Me So Strong and a surpris-ingly effective version of Duke Ellington's Don't Get Around Much Anymore. Finally there was a stark nod in the direction of the Delta with Charley Patton's Pony Blues, followed by a plea to recover the Still, that point became a songwriting royalties for little academic at the Border- another musical legend: Pay

JOHN CLARKE



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more knowledgeable person for it.



Clinton's former spin-doctor, Dick Morris, advises the Tories to abandon the election strategy that led to Bob Dole's defeat last year

The British election gives me a sense of *dėja vu*. It is not so much that Tony Blair is trying to clone Bill Clinton, but that John Major is trying to clone Bob Dole. The Tories are repeating every one of the mistakes that the Republicans made in their uniformly unsuccessful effort to discredit President Clinton's heralded move to the centre in the 1996 election.

Just as the Dole handlers tried to transform the contest into a match of personal attributes between their war-wounded man of integrity and a President racked by scandals, so the Conservatives are seeking to sow personal distrust of Blair and disseminate a warm fuzzy feeling about their sweater-clad Prime Minister. It didn't work in America and it won't work in Britain.

Ironically, at a time when American elections are fought more on the issue positions between parties - the British model - the Conservatives seem to want to move

How Major can help Blair to blow it toward elections based on candi-date personalities and credibility

irrespective of party - the Ameri-

Even though Major is a smidgen more attractive than zero-charisma Bob Dole, the Tories will not close the gap they face by a contrast of personalities, or even of attributes. In the 1990s, voters want elections based on verbs, not on adjectives. They demand to know what a candidate will do for them, not just what kind of man he may claim to be.

As the video game replaces couch

potato television as home entertainment, voters want interactivity. They refuse to be merely spectators judging the biographies and personalities of the contenders. The electorate demands to know how each of the candidates will help or hurt them in their daily lives.

Just as Republicans hammered home the fact that Clinton didn't really mean his centrist proposals of balancing the budget, cutting taxes, and reforming welfare, the Tories are claiming that Blair's move to the centre is opportunistic and will not survive his ascension to power. But voters believe, in the parlance of American politics, that "if it walks like a duck, talks like a duck, and acts like a duck then it is a duck". Conservatives will have little success in seeking to prove to an electorate that likes Blair and his new policies that the Labour

programme. Some Conservatives seem to hope that the good economic news will "sink in" and offer them a measure of electoral backing they

leader doesn't believe that which he

says each and every day to be his

when he lost control of Congress in 1994 despite increasing indications of prosperity, if people don't credit you with good times there is nothing you can do about it

The only way to disprove the sincerity of Labour's conversion to the centre is for Blair to do it to himself - from his own mouth and in his own words.

The Conservatives have only one shot at victory. They must inject issues into the coming campaign which will split Blair's moderate supporters from his Labour unionbackers. By picking on issues which tear at the seams of his coalition, the Tories may be able to force Blair to choose between his base support and his marginal

One wonders, for example,

whether Blair would be willing to to fix cannot appeal to the voters' oppose any labour agreements which provide for wage increases that are above the national rate of inflation — a moratorium on real wage rises - unless they can be owered by productivity improve-ments. Work rules and job security guarantees might also offer fertile grounds for Tory challenges to Labour. A critical focus on public

also put Blair in a ticklish position. Beyond these issues, the Tories need to generate a new staple of proposals. Politicians fall as much because of their successes as their failures. Britain's rejection of Winston Churchill in 1945, just as he had succeeded in winning the war. is the classic example. A politician who extinguishes his mandate by solving the problem he was elected

employee salaries and rights could

sense of gratitude or fair play to seek another term in office. Such appeals lead to a place in history, not to continued tenure at Downing

Conservatives are mired in their own successes in making Britain Europe's economic success story. To win re-election, they must focus on new issues: television violence, teenage smoking and cancer, drunken driving, educational standards, student discipline, teenage curfews, immigration reform, access to higher education and the

If the Tories map out an agenda that is new, they will defeat the charge that they are old and that their best ideas are already on the statute book and their worst are on

But even a new positive agenda will not be enough to overcome a deficit of 20 or more points. Tony Blair needs to make a mistake in how he handles these new issues for them to overcome so significant a gap. For Conservatives to win, they must begin with the humility to realise that only if Blair blows it can they prevail. Their task must be to provide the issues which will force Blair to make mistakes.

ut, if Blair turns his back on the left wing of his party and takes the risk that they will sit on their hands during the cam-paign, there is nothing the Conservatives can do to dislodge him from his position as the likely victor. Labour has the Tories in check. If their candidate refuses to be dislodged from his position in the centre, it will be checkmate.

The author was appointed President Clinton's chief strategist in 1994. He resigned in August 1996.

Hounding honourable men

The public should be in no doubt on whose behalf an MP speaks - and

who is paying for his doublebreasted suit from Savile Row

hy beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye. but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" The Authorised Version is always best. There is acid in antiquity.

So first the beams. I know of journalists who have taken money to place articles in newspapers. Some receive gifts for mentions, some are susceptible to hospitality and some are downright corrupt. Papers have rules governing such behaviour. Journalists who break them should be sacked. Some are.

There are also doctors who prescribe expensive drugs because manufacturers offer them "conference trips". There are lawyers who lie on behalf of clients because they are paid to do so. There are City accountants

who turn a blind eye to fraud because the fees are big. Some of these activities are illegal, some unethical, some merely dodgy. A few people go to prison. Some get away with murder. None of them purports to run the

country or tell the rest of us how to buffers. The process is familiar to behave. Only Members of Parlia- professions in distress, including my ment do that.

I am thick of hide and long of tooth, but the transcripts of the "MPs sleaze" hearings published in yesterday's Guardian left me gasping. When I see an MP standing up in the House of Commons to defend British Airways or US Tobacco or DHL, or to attack Lonrho, I naively assume that he does so out of conviction or at least friendship. This is not necessarily so. Revelations from the files of just one of many lobbyists, Ian Greer, have led 25 MPs to agree that they took money from him. Some admit that they intervened in debates and questions in return for cash. Some were paid by methods familiar among used-car salesmen on London's North Circular Road.

Tim Smith, a treasurer of the Conservative Party, took his bribes in £50 notes stuffed into an envelope, apparently to avoid tax. Michael Brown, fearing discovery, sent a cheque for £1,500 to the Inland Revenue seven years after receiving £6,000 in cash. Neil Hamilton admitted lying to the Deputy Prime Minister about his payments, but says he never saw cash that witnesses assert they stuffed into envelopes for him. Sir Michael Grylls, chairman of the Tory industry committee. described "a natural agglomeration of Members with an interest in various companies" attached to his committee, all receiving money from Mr Greer. They happily agreed with him when he assured them that their loot was not a declarable interest.

A further job lot of MPs received campaign money as "friends of Mr Greer". Andrew Bowden, Lady Olga Maitland, Nirj Deva, Gerry Malone, Norman Lamont and Sir Peter Hordern have all been mentioned in terms that appear to break what are called "the rules". Another 15 MPs were hurriedly cleared by the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee on Thursday. The reason was that, while they took money, they did not take much. The sin, your reverence, was a small one and ever so well-meant.

We are assured by those close to the Mother of Parliaments that every profession has its rotten apples. Let he who is without sin cast the first stone, they say. Pride goeth before destruction. (There is nothing like the Bible for getting the lads out of the kitchen when the

moral heat is on:) Let us therefore turn from the apples to the fruiterer. When the sleaze saga began in the early years of this parliament. John Major initiated the process that has now run into the

own. The leaders of the profession declare their work to be above the regulatory competence of the law. Their ethics should be judged, not by a court or the press or any independent tribunal, but strictly by their

Stung by revelations of the cashfor-questions scandal in 1995, the House of Commons disbanded its laughable Privileges Committee and renamed it the new, improved Standards and Privileges Committee. Uournalists know this trick: the Press Council is now called the Press Complaints Commission.) A supposedly fierce official named Sir Gordon Downey would hold hearings and issue reports. Then it would be left to MPs themselves to decide what to do. So far it is an everyday story of

professional folk. This structure was duly pointed at the scandal that led to its formation. It has failed the first test: The new committee expects us to believe that it cannot read dates. It seemed unaware that the Commons must be dissolved, at the latest, by May 1997. Here we are at Easter and, what a pity, there is no time to consider a possibly embarrassing report. A new regime will have to do so in the summer, by which time some rotten. apples may be collecting worms on a House of Lords shelf.

Sir Gordon played his part. He claims to have been overwhelmed with the amount of paper he had to read, a task for which he was apparently ill-prepared by his Civil



Westminster 1997? No: Bourgevin's depiction of mayhem in the Chambre des Députés dates from 1871

Service career. He says that natural justice required him to give the matter lengthy study. He has suggested that he could have exonerated 15 of the 25 MPs under investigation some time ago, but had not done so because that "might be taken as implying that the remainder [of the allegations] were well-founded". He was thus a wise and just man.

Then, on Thursday, Sir Gordon rushes out an interim report of just eight paragraphs. He turns turtle. Now he publicly exonerates the 15, to avoid them "having to enter into an election campaign with these allegations outstanding against them". As for the remaining ten, his exoneration of the first 15 "carries no implication one way or another" as to their guilt. Why did he imply the precise opposite when considering the matter

'some time ago"?
On receiving the interim report on Thursday, the Standards and Privileges Committee did not suppress it. let alone demand a full version, even if Sir Gordon has to go without his tea-break. It published Sir Gordon's partial exoneration and wept crocodile tears. It "very much regrets that it has not been possible to complete all its outstanding work on these and other matters".

I have never read such rubbish, Sir Gordon knew he was turning up dirt. as did the committee. I suppose we must believe Sir Gordon when he says he was busy. What is totally implausible is his thesis that what he calls "natural justice" required him to hold back his verdict on ten MPs until after the election, while what he calls "a new situation" required him to exonerate 15 before it, and thus cover the others in mire.

This committee is the same lapdog as its predecessor. With MPs about to go on public parade, the committee was prepared to wash clean linen but not dirty underwear. The "exonerated 15" include the Tory leadership candidate Michael Portillo, Liberal Democrat deputy leader Alan Beith, Labour star Chris Smith, and John Major's friends Robert Atkins and Graham Bright. Come on, Sir Gordon, said the committee, these are senior club members. By all means leave a few rogues twisting in the wind, but cut down our friends. Sir Gordon duly obliged.

Who will guard these guardians? In this case, the answer was The Guardian. The transcripts of the secret hearings recalled the Congres-

sional Kefauver Committee hearings on organised crime in 1951: nervous witnesses mumbling into microphones about envelopes and "the Revenue". The difference is that in America the hearings were in public. Here they are secret. Whatever the beams in the press's eye, it has done the job democracy expects of it. Yet four of the five MPs accused by The Guardian of misconduct or worse are seeking re-election next month.

My way of handling MPs who plug special interests for money is to accept the inevitable. Politicians will take cash. The simplest policy is to pay them nothing from public funds and let them live, as of old, self-employed and by their wits. MPs should be able to take any pay, from anyone. Business interests should have their MPs, as do trade unions. The one requirement is that everything be declared and above board. The public should be in no doubt on whose behalf an MP speaks and who is paying for his double-breasted.

We used to be told that subjecting MPs to this sort of moral inquisition was outrageous. Honest citizens would not stand for Parliament if we hounded MPs like this.

Honest people? Unleash more

Our isle is too full of noises

Ubiquitous voices are aural space

invaders, says Derwent May

A new voice has been swelling on television: the voice of the huckster. We are no longer allowed to sit back after a programme we have enjoyed, and contem-plate its pleasures for a moment in peace. Even as the credits start rolling, a voice pipes up: "Next on BBC2... Later on BBC2.. Over on BBCl now..." There is not a

moment's respite.
Of course, it is the same on ITV - and, what is worse, on radio. I am no enemy of Radio 3 and its inexhaustible fountain of great music, but even here the huckster mentality has wormed its way in. The music is continually interrupted by salesmen's voices. No sooner is a little Boccherini piece over than you are being urged to tune into a Boccherini recital in the evening, or else to go to the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. You start thinking that the Boccherini piece was put on in the first place only as a trailer for the recital, just as the recital will prove to be a trailer for a festival in Eisenstadt — and even that, probably, will be a plug for a new series of recordings.

Then there are the Radio 4 programme trails. One of the nightmares of breakfast time s the three minutes betweer the end of the weather forecast and the start of the news. How to get through that outburst of hysterical selling and facetious clips? I simply wash up last night's dinner-plates as loudly as I can, waiting for the moment before the news when a calmer voice will run through the morning's road accidents.

In The Waste Land, T.S. Eliot describes a sinister 'sound high in the air", which I associate nowadays with these broadcast voices. Then he goes on to evoke as a further feature of the waste land the "voices singing out of empty cisterns and exhausted wells", which will do very well for another set of contemporary voices, the new intercom announcements on the London Underground.

Of course, one cannot be wholly hostile to the idea of announcements on public transport. I remember a conductor on the No 22 bus that goes along Piccadilly, who, having observed his passengers closely, used to sing out for their benefit at Green Park station: "Green Park, and taxis for the Ritz."

There are also announcements now in the carriages of railway trains. A few months ago the guard on a train that I was taking from Liverpool

Street to Cambridge informed us passengers, just before we started: This is the O elevenhundred-hours service to Cambridge, arriving at 0 twelve-twenty-nine." Even the privatised railways have not quite grasped the 24-hour clock - but I forgave him.

It is, I suppose, some consolation when a train stops, and lets you look at the flowers on the embankment, that at least a vague message about "signal failure" is passed on. (Yet one really would like to know why the signal has failed.)

However, it is on the Underground that the new communications system really produces the horrors. In the early days there was a man with a particularly lugubrious voice. He used to start with Ladies and Gentlemen. ... Never have I heard a voice that conveyed at the same time more doom for its auditors. and more happiness for the speaker. You gritted your teeth you waited for the news .. what would it be? Cancellations, breakdowns, power failures, bodies under the wheels? It was never anything good, and generally ended with the ineffable advice: "Take the first train" and

change as necessary." noise on the Underground never sems to cease. Announcements echo inaudibly around the tunnels, often timed to coincide with the roar of a train coming in; the driver gives his news as the loudspeaker on the platform is doing the same, and they drown each other out; mysterious appeals ring out that have nothing to do with the comfort of the passengers at all: "If there is a cleaner on the station will she please go at once to the station manager's office?"

odern technology has produced so IV I many enemies of our ears. There are also the mobile phones, whose users always speak twice as loud as anyone else sitting on a bus or train. There is not even any pleasure in eavesdropping. All the conversations seem quite superfluous acts of communication. You never hear anyone say: "Buy me two million Reuters shares immediately."
Our poor old aural space is being mercilessly invaded and, usually, all for nothing. in another poem. The Dry Salvages. T.S. Eliot asked: "Where is there an end of it, the soundless wailing?" If only it were soundless. I think I could live with that.

Sleazy rider

TRY AS he might to escape the sleaze row, Neil Hamilton, the beleaguered MP for Tatton, will find it more difficult than he thinks with Mohamed Al Fayed mischievously on his tail.

The Egyptian owner of Harrods has taken out a full-page advertisement at a cost of some £7,000 in the local newspaper for Hamilton's constituency, urging its readers to

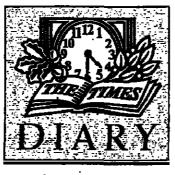


buy the book Sleaze, which records the MP's behaviour.

Shops in his constituency are reluctant to stock the book after legal threats from Hamilton, so Al Faved has taken his own initiative. In the advertisement, which will appear on Monday, he writes a letter on Harrods-headed paper under the heading: Believe it or not, this is a free country. "Dear People of the Tatton

Parliamentary Constituency," he writes, "I am concerned to learn that you may be unable to obtain copies of an important book which details the activites of your present Member of Parliament . . . I believe it is a book that everyone has a right to read." After explaining how to order the book from Harrods, Al Faved finishes his letter: "Why should Mr Hamilton fear the facts? Read Sleaze and find out."

For Pete's sake INHABITANTS of Deptford, sore on the grounds that Peter



to come to terms with a giant statue of Tsar Peter the Great which currently stands in Moscow. It is reviled by the entire city.

The 165ft-high structure was erected last year by Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor, on a prime site on the Moskva River as part of the city's 850th anniversary this year. Not only has it been condemned by Boris Yeltsin as a monstrosity, but Muscovites point out that Peter the Great detested Moscow to the extent of building himself a new capital 500 miles to the northwest.

Enter Andrew Preston, Deptford resident. The mayor's office is seriously considering his proposal that the borough should take on the eyesoutheast London, may soon have spent an enjoyable few weeks there

some 400 years ago studying shipbuilding. "We in Deptford, one of the poorest boroughs in London can solve this practical dilemma," he has told the mayor, "by taking the statue off your hands and moving it to the docks of Deptford."

Battle bus

HE IS NOTHING if not persistent, Sir George Gardiner, the former Tory MP who defected to the Refer-



Tsar Peter: returning?

endum Party after being ousted by his local party for his continual criticism of John Major. Now that he is barred from his

constituency headquarters, he has nowhere to hold his monthly surgery, so he has been staging it in a minibus parked on the forecourt outside his old offices in Reigate,

The Tories who cast him out, meanwhile, have carried on with their meetings inside HQ in a rival operation with borough councillor Philip Hitchins. In a triumphalist flourish, Sir George's team claim to have been recruiting more constituents. "As far as I'm concerned, it's business as usual," says the outcast. "This is a very petty action by Reigate Conservative Association. An MP's surgery is not political but serves the whole community."

Sour note

MONDAY night's Oscar ceremony should see some strained smiles when Sir Tim Rice and Lord Lloyd-Webber appear together as joint nominees for the song You Must Love Me which they co-wrote for the film Evita. Madonna is upset after failing to

the past but the prospect of picking Rio. one up with Andrew Lloyd Webber leaves me with mixed feelings - a bit like watching your mother-in-



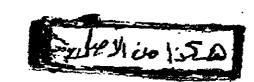
Musical glares: Lord Lloyd-Webber, Madonna and Sir Tim Rice

get a nomination for her acting law driving off a cliff is part; now Sir Tim seems to be appalled at having received one not really on speaking terms.

At a dinner for the Brian January of the January of the past but up two Oscars with great men in wal when he fell over in a street in

He denies that he was Turunk in February during Carni-

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.





MAJOR'S WAY OUT

Without decisive action, the real election issues will be buried,

It is hard to conceive how the Conservative election campaign could have got off to a worse start. With at least four of his candidates accused of serious wrongdoing and his own position impugned, John Major has been rendered impotent by events. The of Prime Minister's attempt to confront the voters with the consequences of a change of government has been frustrated by his own failure to confront corruption.

CAL MARKET TO THE PARTY OF THE

May

If Mr Major had prolonged the life of this Parliament to allow Sir Gordon Downey to publish his "sleaze" report then voters would not have to rely on leaks to find out if their Member was worthy of his seat and the Conservatives could have begun to campaign effectively. It is in the public interest that ministers begin to test Labour's case ferociously, as well as outlining the Conservarive vision for the millennium, but they will not be able to do so effectively until these matters have been laid to rest. If the Prime Minister persists in thinking the issue will disappear of its own accord then his sense of proportion already has and his administration surely and shortly will.

The easiest, and best, answer would still be to recall the House simply in order to allow the Downey report to be published. It would be unconventional but not unconstitutional. As yesterday's Guardian and new revelations in The Times today show, the truth will out anyway. Unfortunately, it is not the whole truth. Until Sir Gordon's report appears, evidence which is, in every sense, partial will seep out to stain individuals and, by association, the Government.

Ouestions can legitimately be raised about the Prime Minister's own role. Given that Tim Smith apparently told the Chief Whip in 1989 of his activities on Mohamed Al Fayed's behalf, why was he made a treasurer of the Conservative Party in 1992 and a minister in 1994? Whips have their secrets, but how could the Prime Minister be allowed to make such an appointment? Mr Major looks to be the victim of confusion rather than the author of a cover-up but

matters will not rest until authoritative and independent answers are given.

The Conservatives must weigh the neces-

sity of throwing the wounded to the wolves. In Ireland, Fine Gael, facing a general election, has deprived a minister of the whip until his own tax affairs are in order. Mr Major could try to push Tim Smith and Neil Hamilton out of the party tent. There is a danger, of course, that so much damage is already done that the time is too late. In the spirit of the ERM and BSE fiascos, Mr Major could appear once again as the defender of an impossible position fated to falter at the end. It would also be the roughest of justice.

But justice in politics sometimes has to be rough. Other Tory MPs, such as Keith Best in 1987 and Alan Amos in 1992, have been sacrificed for the sake of the Tory whole. Mr Hamilton, however, who still vigorously protests his innocence on the central charge, is not a man likely to volunteer for the part of Captain Oates. So he will need to be pushed hard. By such an action Mr Major might regain authority over events and give the country a chance to concentrate on the substantive matters at issue in this election. Future administrations must not be placed in a similar position. Adopting Lord Nolan's recommendation which allows Sir Gordon to make his findings public would help, as might making him answerable to the Speaker. She remains in place while Parliament is prorogued and could be in a better position to expedite future researches than the Standards and Privileges Committee. The current machinery to govern members' conduct is new and must be refined if self-regulation is to have any chance of survival. If this Government is to have any chance of survival then an assertion of leadership is required. The nation can only make a considered decision after a proper debate but the electorate cannot have confidence that there will be a proper debate unless the Prime Minister takes the voters into his confidence.

BLOODY FRIDAY

Israel's anger should not obscure Israel's interest

For the second time in eight days innocent Israelis have lost blood and lives in an act of political violence. The shooting of seven schoolchildren last week was shocking. It was, at least, the work of one man rather than a wider conspiracy. The blast that three and wounding 43 people - signals a much more dangerous course of events. It suggest that the Hamas terrorists may resume their suicide-bombing strategy that killed 59 Israelis in three attacks last year.

One consequence of those assaults was a diminished enthusiasm for the peace process in Israel and a renewed stress on security questions. That in turn led to the defeat of Shimon Peres and the, once improbable, narrow election of Binyamin Netanyahu and his Likud-led coalition. The Israeli Prime Minister knows that his public will now demand that he protects them with more success than his Labour predecessor. That promise is the essence of his politics. It was not surprising then that the first response of many in his Cabinet was to question the merits of the peace process.

In his initial reaction to the outrage, Mr Netanyahu blamed the Palestinian National Authority for indirectly offering a "green light" to such acts through its response to recent events in east Jerusalem. Others will suggest that Yassir Arafat does not possess such a decisive influence over Hamas. Nonetheless, the Prime Minister was right to assert that the greatest threat to peace lies in the belief that violence can be selectively deployed as a bargaining tactic. Whatever the wisdom of his stance and timing on settlements he will not, and should not, alter it at the behest of such terror.

Israel's citizens will demand that, Mr

Arafat demonstrates the maximum possible energy in tracking down Palestinian extremists. Their front organisations operate all but openly in much of the Palestinian National Authority. If that commitment is not seen and does not produce results, the de world cannot expert Mr Netanyahi to continue as though such attacks had not happened. The phased transfer of territory and political powers on the West Bank and Gaza Strip has always been explicitly contingent upon successful policing.

Israel's intense anger should not blind it to its interests. The plain objective of rejectionist forces such as Hamas is to oblige Mr Netanyahu to make substantial unilateral concessions or abandon the peace process entirely. The Prime Minister is most unlikely to capitulate on the first account but is more vulnerable on the second. The Likud leader has always approached the Oslo accords from a strictly pragmatic position, not trading land for peace but land for peace and certain security. If he cannot be persuaded that such a swap is credible then he may suspend co-operation indefinitely.

Peace at any price is a poor deal; but Israel still has more to gain than lose from full participation in the process. Mr Netanyahu is entitled to make his past and future moves contingent upon Mr Arafat's competence on security matters. He should not play into his enemies' hands by cutting off all contacts. The sad truth is that, with the best of precautions, either Hamas or Hezbollah will attempt to sabotage political dialogue. Mr Netanyahu should hold the terrorists and their sponsors in Damascus or Tehran to account. But his strongest weapon remains his power to gain Israel's advantage from the process that Israel's enemies want to die.

WHEELS TO THE TOP

A President in a wheelchair has a good deal rolling for him

This has been a good week for Bill Clinton. For four years he has been trying to appear like Franklin D. Roosevelt. And now at last he has managed it. This has been the first wheelchair summit since Roosevelt and Churchill met Stalin at Yalta in 1945. And it has given the two leaders, as well as the rest of the world, something new to talk about.

Summits now happen almost as frequently as Test matches. So both types of event have lost the charm of novelty. Mr Yeltsin prophesied that this summit was going to be "the most difficult in the whole history of Russian-American relations". But no one much believed him. Certain truths remain. Summits tend to make leaders look good and their oppositions shout foul. Yesterday, Gennadi Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communist Party, blasted Mr Yeltsin in the State Duma (lower house of parliament): "Boris Nikolayevich has not had any victories for a long time, except over

his own people and country" But Boris Nikolayevich had numerous important victories at Helsinki. The Kremlin's new pyervy samolyot, "First Plane", was revealed as being as grand and sophisticated as Air Force One, Russian minders and other summit sherpas paraded their slick navy jackets and mobile telephones instead of the brown nylon suits with bulges under the armpits. And, best of all for Mr Yeltsin, the heart-invalid who was supposed to be half-dead came bounding off his plane looking bronzed and cheerful.

The Americans thought that they too had a problem with the critics back home. White House advisers got cold wheels about letting Mr Yeltsin be photographed pushing their man in his wheelchair. They feared that cartoonists and Republicans would do them more harm than ever Boris Yeltsin could do them good. But they were surely wrong. The world has moved on since Franklin Roosevelt, not wanting to be pictured as too weak for the top, went to extraordinary lengths to avoid being photographed in his wheelchair. Now there are advantages for Mr Clinton in his invalid's prop. It even attracts useful sympathy. The disabled and disadvantaged form much the largest special interest group in the United States. The wheelchair is an emblem of peace beside a tank, as it were, a self-propelling ploughshare to a sword.

Its image will take the sting out of allegations by Mr Zyuganov that Nato expansion is aggressive. Who would monger war from a wheelchair? The chair may win Mr Clinton kinder, or at any rate different questions at press conferences. And it will make foul aspersions of sex scandals or midnight raids on the fridge of the Intercontinental Hotel, Helsinki, as implausible as, we are sure, they always were.

CPS policy on the

granting of bail

been turned down.

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Locked into a suicidal system", March 17) is right to draw attention to the appalling human tragedies which can occur when the procedures laid down for the supervision of accused prisoners on remand have not been properly obser-ved. The vast majority of these prisoners are so placed only because the request made on their behalf for bail has

There will certainly be some cases where the danger to the public, the likelihood of reoffending, or the probability that the accused will not present himself for trial may justify withholding bail and requiring imprisonment on remand. However, are these cases sufficiently common to explain the size of the remand prisoner popu-

Does the Crown Prosecution Service perhaps routinely oppose bail not to saleguard the public but as an ad-ministrative convenience to spare itself and the police the trouble of finding and producing the accused in

If remand is often just an administrative convenience then cases like that of Angela Bollam, the 19-year-old heroin addict who hanged herself after live hours left alone in her prison cell, should weigh heavily on the CPS. It is the CPS's policy and procedures which perhaps most pressingly need

Yours sincerely. W. S. AFFLECK. Barley Hill, Watledge, Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs A. E. Barroll, JP

Sir. In his moving article Magnus Linklater calls for a latter-day John Howard or Elizabeth Fry. I am proud to say that the Elizabeth

Fry Probation and Bail Hostel is alive and well in Reading. The successor to the Refuge for Discharged Prisoners, founded in memory of Elizabeth Fry in 1849, the hostel is voluntary-managed with Home Office funding and moved from London in 1960.

Through the years the nature of the work with women offenders has changed to coincide with demand; today the 21 residents are on probation orders, bail assessment, or remand.

Qualified and caring staff help them address their problems - often drug-related - through a rigorous programme designed to enable them to realise their current and future needs. When circumstances permit they can be accompanied by their children. Surely a more positive way of life than confinement in prison?

Yours faithfully, ANN BARROLL (Chairman, Elizabeth Fry Hostel Management Committee). I Upper Warren Avenue. Caversham, Reading, Berkshire.

Carey's crusade

From Dr Caroline Bonwitt

Sir, Dr Carey is head of the Established Church in a country engaged in a bloody, violent dispute with its neighbour, a country where nearly half the marriages break down, where children are often brutalised, where standards of public behaviour have reached an unprecedented low and where perhaps 2 per cent of the population practises the state religion.

Despite all of this he found the time to go and tell the Israelis how to do it (leading article, March 12; letters, March (3).

You have to admire his cheek but where is his Christian humility? What about the mote and beam?

Yours faithfully, CAROLINE BONWITT, The Foreland Medical Centre. ISS Walmer Road, WII.

Against apostasy

From Dr William Oddie

Sir. I was surprised to see my Catho-lic Herald review of A. N. Wilson's book Paul: The Mind of the Apostle described in your Diary (March 13) as an extraordinary ad hominem attack" on the author. The implication of this appears to be that I misused my position as a reviewer in order to give vent to my personal feelings about Mr Wilson. But I have no personal animus against Mr Wilson at all; if any-

thing the reverse is true.

A reviewer, nevertheless, has the duty of pointing out a writer's under-lying agenda where he believes he discerns one: I believe that Mr Wilson's, as I wrute in my review, is "to undermine the credibility of the Christian religion in general and the Church in particular".

It was Mr Wilson, after all, who in a high-profile and swingeing attack or all religion wrote that "the love of God is the root of all evil. This is why I described him as "an apostate". This is the currect term to describe one who makes a public declaration of his defection from Christianity rather than losing his faith more discreetly: I deny that I used it polemically in my review my polemics were reserved almost entirely for the book and not for its author.

Yours sincerely WILLIAM ODDIE. 6 Sunningwell Road, Oxford.

London's 'leap forward into past'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Lord Feldman of Frognal

Sir. Lady Blackstone (Give the capital authority". March 14) continues the saga of yet another Labour menu without prices. I have learned that there are two

ways to predict the future: one is to create it; the other is to study the past. Having served as an adopted member of both the housing management and arts committees of the Greater London Council, I believe from my past experience that even if the proposed Greater London Authority starts small, it will soon grow and

In my view, its establishment would be a leap forward into the past and a magical mystery tour leading to growing bureaucracy and costs, and inexorably to a London version of the "tartan tax". After all, the GLC — with its 20,000 staff — fully earned its place in history by having one of the largest budgets of any city, or indeed many smaller countries, in the world, leaving the ratepayers of London with un-necessarily high charges.

To chop and change now, just as the systems set in place are growing in strength and performance, would be counter-productive.

Lady Blackstone cites the sugges-tion of Tony Blair that an elected

mayor would be a good idea. In a recent debate in the House of Lords several peers (myself included) pointed out that a directly elected mayor, and a directly elected London authority, would set the scene for permanent discord in the corridors of London

Instead of a mayor. I propose a fulltime Minister for London at Minister of State level within the Department of the Environment, who could travel the world as a champion for London, act as a host within London and coordinate and strengthen the city's activities at all levels including - of course - strategic planning and transport.

Yours faithfully. FELDMAN, House of Lords. March 18.

Gorbachev's legacy

From Mr Brian Crosier Sir, I note from Professor Archie Brown's letter (March 17) that he is

still not cured of his Gorbymania. Gorbachev's book Perestroika is peppered with worshipful references to Lenin, as were his speeches. A convinced Leninist cannot be a defender of freedom in the Western sense. In the limited reforms he introduced, his objective was to convince the West that he was aiming at transforming a one-party dictatorship into a democracy, thus persuading the West to

His problem was that the communist system was unreformable. Oleg Gordievsky, as an insider, is aware of the reality. As I put it in my own book, The Gorbachev Phenomenon (Claridge Press, 1990): "He deserves, not praise for his grand deception, but gratitude for his abysmal failure."

rescue the Soviet Union from bank-

Yours faithfully. BRIAN CROZIER, Flat AA, I Carlisle Place, SWI. March 18.

Treating anorexia

From Professor Emeritus

Sir. Mr Justice Wall has certainly broken new ground (report, March 13) by his ruling that, under common law, a 16-year-old girl with anorexia could be restrained in a clinic for treatment. But many would question the benefit of this. Using severe measures to force anorexic patients to eat often makes them depressed so that they can no longer drive themselves to eat.

Evidence that I, together with Linda Medlicott, published in 1992 showed that patients with eating disorders have exactly the same compulsive features as are shown by those who have compulsive personality disorder. The latter group includes workaholics, some alcoholics and gamblers and those with obsessive compulsive neurosis, but they do not have an eating disorder. Appreciating the compulsive nature of the illness certainly helped the patients' families both to understand and to assist in their treat-

In recent years the genetic basis of compulsive behaviour has begun to be unravelled. This may lead us to find a treatment which will curtail the compulsive drive, so that the patient can co-operate more easily in recovering.

Yours faithfully, IVOR H. MILLS (Professor Emeritus of Medicine), University of Cambridge, Department of Surgery. Douglas House. Trumpington Road, Cambridge.

Patterns of violence From Mr Martin Alpren

Sir, Your later editions today report two items, one above the other: a man kicked to death by a gang of youths while he was helping a disabled woman whom they were taunting, and a rail operator ordering up to 20 trains to run over the body of a young woman left for four hours on the line "in the interests of travellers who would otherwise have faced severe delays".

Does anything connect these two

MARTIN ALPREN, 2 Claremont Park, Finchley, N3. March 19.

Penance misplaced

From Mr John K. Roberts

Sir, Members of Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade, being men of integrity, will want to dig deep into their own pockets so that the full burden of Mrs Clayton's award of £200,000 against them for their inconsiderate conduct toward her (report, March 18) will not fall too heavily on council taxpavers who have absolutely no responsibility for this deplorable matter.

Yours faithfully. JOHN K. ROBERTS. The Old Nursery, Easton, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

From Mr Oleg Gordievsky

Sir, Professor Archie Brown confirms the tendency of some in the academic world to mythologise and create icons out of communist autocrats, from Lenin to Ho Chi Minh. He says that Anatoli Sobchak and Sergei Stankevich "cleared Gorbachev of any responsibility" for the Tbilisi massacre in

Under the conditions of that regime it was impossible to accuse the President of any criminal offence, but without orders from the top no militarypolitical action in the capital city of a Soviet republic could take place.

The impunity with which the leadership carried out the atrocities in Tbilisi, Baku and Vilnius, and the four years of war in Afghanistan under Gorbachev, were what forged the mind-set of those communist-school officials who later organised the infamous bloodbath in Chechnia.

Yours faithfully OLEG GORDIEVSKY. clo A. M. Heath. 79 St Martin's Lane, WC2 March 18.

Burying the Globe

From Professor J. L. Wilson

Sir, The refusal by English Heritage further to investigate the remains of the Globe playhouse (report, March 13) suggest that their archaeologists have learned nothing from the sorry saga of the Rose, which remains cov ered up eight years after its discovery Archaeologists speaking on behalf of English Heritage have consistently failed to show appreciation of the importance of these sites.

Until the discovery of the Rose there were no material remains of any Elizabethan playbouse known, and the Globe is the only playhouse which may be truly described as "Shakespearean". It is the only one in the design of which Shakespeare may have had some influence - the other amphitheatre playhouses with which he is known to have been connected, the Theatre and the Curtain, were built during his childhood, and his connection with the Rose is specu-

Although the sites of six Elizabethan playhouses are known, there is no guarantee that the remains of any but the Rose and the Globe survive. The latter is of global importance: in permitting development of the site and refusing to excavate it English Heritage is failing in its duty to scholarship.

Yours faithfully, J. L. WILSON (Author, The Archaeology of Shakespeare, Sutton Publishing, 1995). Wholeway, Harlton, Cambridge. March 14.

Political passions From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, From the start of Richard Attenhorough's article ("Believe me: Blair cares about the arts", March 15) I thought it would not be long before the word passion cropped up. I was not disappointed. Ten years ago, when he was on the stump with Roy Jenkins on behalf of the SDP, he said on camera that he believed passionately in the middle ground. In what political home will his passion find him in another ten years?

He cannot be too surprised at Virginia Bottomley's "luvvies' charter" gibe at Tony Blair's Mansion House speech. So many of his fraternity are bound up with the most tiresome in-tensity and self-indulgence. Full of ideas they are - passionately held of course - as to how public money should be spent. In equal measure are they bereft of ideas as to how the same money is to be made in the first place.

Yours truly, EDWARD THOMAS, Flat 4, 21 Jevington Gardens, Eastbourne, East Sussex. March 15.

Weekend Money letters, page 46

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

Ancient Basque links with Georgia

From Mr Gerald Stonehill

Sir, Your report (March 20) linking the Basque language with Etruscan, and your leading article affirming that Basque has no known link with any other language, is misleading, nor does it follow that Basque origins

must be sought only in Africa. The Ancient Greeks recognised a second Iberia, coexisting near the Caucasus in modern Georgia, Recall, too, "The Hyrcanian cliffs Of Cauca-sus and dark Iberian dales" (Milton, Paradise Regained, iii, 318), or: "You enter into the Iberians region, who are separated from the Albanois by the river Alazon, which runneth downe from the Caucasian hills." (Pliny i, 119, in Holland's translation, cited by the Oxford English Dictionary). (lbayerri in Basque means "the country of

the river".) In the Stalin era the Georgian philologist Aleksander Kiknadze catalogued more than 360 words identical or very similar in the Georgian and Basque languages, such as those for people, mountain crests, wheels and grain. The Russian biologist and boranist Nikolay Vavilov (d 1943) found that Basque wheat was similar to a Georgian variety, unmatched any-

where else. Moreover, the syntax and grammatical structure of the two languages are alike, and anthropologists have traced further resemblances in folk music and dances and in family customs and traditions. The clincher was the unearthing in Bilbao of the "Iberian tablet", which defied decipherment until the Georgian Shota Khvevelidze, who had studied ancient Georgian, was called in. After much

study, he translated the text: In the year 4100 the earth heaved with a mighty roar. The wise Rio reminded his countrymen that this had happened once before, when part of the Iberian land was swallowed up. It was therefore imperative to leave and follow the sun's course. Rio managed to collect several hundred thousand people and headed in the direction of the sunset. There they found a new home

In Basque tradition legends also tell how their ancestors came from the east at the time of a giant battle between fire, earth and water". Kiknadze suggests that this could have coincided with the cataciysm that overwhelmed the Minoans in Crete

It would be quite within expectations that the Caucasian Iberians would have left clues, as in Tuscany, of their migration to the west.

GERALD STONEHILL. One The Boltons, SW10. March 20.

High life From Mr Peter Blunt

Sir. Financial worries have always beset Oxford and Cambridge colleges vying to put on the best summer ball. Only the figures change (report,

The 1960 Merton Commem Ball Committee decided to set an expensive double-ticket price of £10. This in-cluded an all-night champagne buffet with breakfast, and dancing in marquees to the legendary Sid Phillips and his Band, a Calypso singer, a Trinidad steel band (a first for Oxford)

and a piper for reels. There was the usual cabaret, for which we had risked the considerable sum of E40 on four unknown students, who were about to open a review that summer on the Edinburgh Fringe, their names being Cook, Moore, Bennett and Miller. The midnight show eventually started after some delay, with one member missing (Dr Miller had hospital duties), and feared the worst.

The entertainment was understandably a riotous success, but when the committee met after the ball to pay the bills, we thought long and hard before paying the full fee for only three out of the four performers.

Yours faithfully, PETER BLUNT, 6 Park View Terrace, March 19.

From Mr C. F. Dayer

Sir. I find it very hard to understand how undergraduates, who are supposedly hard-pushed financially, are able to spend around £100 on a May

Yours sincerely, C. F. DAYER. 40 Fesants Croft. Harlow, Essex. March 17.

Misdirected male

From Major-General L. de M. Thuillier

Sir, I have just received a communication addressed to Ms Mai-Gen L. Thuiltier offering me a free sample of Silkies tights and informing me that 66 million women have already received theirs. The letter bears the heading: "The most beautiful legs in the world wear Silkies."

Am I now to believe that I harbour an errant gene which, at my advanced age, is about to change my sex?

I am, Sir, yours truly (still male), LESLIE THUILLIER, The Red Barn, Patney, Devizes, Wiltshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 21: The Queen arrived this morning at Mansfield Station and was received by Sir Andrew Bu-chanan Bt (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghan

Her Majesty drove to Queen Eliza-beth's Endowed School, Mansfield, and was received by the Chairman of the Governors and Trustees (Councillor John Carter) and the Head Teacher (Mrs Nicola Atkin). The Queen unveiled the Lady Flogan Memorial and afterwards

ired the school.

Her Majesty later arrived in Not-tingham City Centre and was re-ceived by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Barrie Parker), who escorted The Queen along the Processional Way to he Council House, meeting schoolchildren and representatives from the

uniformed organisations.
At the Council House Her Majesty unveiled a plaque to commemorate the Centenary of the City, visited the City of Nottingham's Centenary Ex-hibition and met the Mayors of the City's twin towns, before viewing the ns for a new Millennium Ice

The Queen subsequently attended a Lincheon given by the Lord Mayor. Her Majesty this afternoon visited the new Nottingham Courthouse and was received by the Chairman of the Magistrates' Court Committee (Mr

magistrates Court Committee (Mr George Fish).

The Queen later visited Boots the Chemist, Beeston, Nottingham, was received by the Chairman (Sir Mich-ael Angus) and unveiled a foundation stone for the new headquarters building.

Her Majesty afterwards visited Boots Contract Manufacturing Development Laboratories and was received by Mr Melvyn Brown (Chief Executive) and the Mayor of Broxtowe (Councillor John White). The Queen subsequently visited Boots Healthcare International and

was received by Mr Barry Clare (Managing Director).
The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, this morning gave a Press Conference at the Prince George Hotel, Halifax,

His Royal Highness later attended a Luncheon for the World Wide Fund for Nature - Canada Wildlife Rescue team at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel. The Duke of Edinburgh this

afternoon chaired an Endangered Species Workshop at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. Afterwards, at the Halifax Hotel, His Royal Highness, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, presented certificates to young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's

The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

March 21: The Duke of York this

March 2: The Duke to Tolk the Additional safternoon visited the Defence Technology Stand at the Year of Engineering Success Exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, and

was received by Mr Roger Burman (Deputy Licatenant of West Midlands).

March 21: The Prince Edward.

Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh

Award International Foundation and Chairman, International Coun-

cil, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

international Association, today undertook engagements in New

Delhi, India.

His Royal Highness this morning

attended presentations on the Indian Award North Zone, visited the Award exhibition and attended a Reception with Gold Award recipients at Vasant Valley School, Vasant Kunj. The Prince Edward afterwards visited

Otub Minar and Humayum's Tomb. His Royal Highness, accompanied by the British High Commissioner

by the British High Commissions (His Excellency the Hon Sir David Gore-Booth), this afternoon attended a Luncheon given by the Confederation of Indian Industry at the Taj

The Prince Edward later attended a

meeting with Shri Kocheril Raman Narayanan (Vice-President of India).

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception at the British Council and launched the North India Alumni Directory of Indians who have studied in Great Britain. particularly those who have received the Evening and Communication.

the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chevening Awards and the Charles Wallace India Trust Awards.

The Prince Edward afterwards attended a Dinner given by the

British High Commissioner at the

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 21: The Prince of Wales

President, this afternoon attended the BT Swimathon in aid of The Prince's

Trust at The Queen Mother Sports

March 21: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The

Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Junior Choreographic Competition at the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park.

March 21: Princess Alexandra

accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning arrived at Gatwick Airport, London, from

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

Centre, London SWI.

KENSINGTON PALACE

Palace Hotel.

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their Ladies, attended the annual livery dinner of the Blacksmiths' Company held last night at Mansion House. Mr Rodney Lyons, Prime Warden, presided, assisted by the Wardens. Among the guests were Major General P.V.R. Besgrove, Director. General Equipment (Army), and Brigadier R. Pridham, Com-This evening The Duke of Edin-burgh attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature at the World mandant, Royal Military School of Engineering, Chatham. The Prince of Wales, on behalf of

Dinners

Blacksmiths' Company

Incorporation of Weavers,

Fullers and Shearmen Mr Roger Persey, Master of the the incorporation of Weavers. Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter, assisted by the Wardens and Court of Assistants, presided at a dinner held last night at Tuckers' Hall. Exeter, in honour of Mr Richard Davis, Master of the Clothworkers' Company, and the Rev Peter Taylor, immediate Past Master of the Drapers' Company.

Sir Godfray le Quesne, QC The judges, past and present, and officers of the Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey held a dinner in Middle Temple last night to mark the recent retirement of Sir Godfray le Quesne, QC, from th Bench. Sir Godfray had been appointed when the courts were set

Montgomeryshire Society Mr David H.O. Owen, President of the Montgomeryshire Society, presided at the seventieth anniversary dinner held last night at the Reform Club. Mr David Carey Evans was the speaker and Profes sor Kenneth Morgan also spoke. London University Inner Temple

Judge Elfer was the guest of honour at a dinner given last night at Canary Wharf by London University Inner Temple Society to mark the final round of the intercollegiate mooting com-petition. Mr Peter Petts, chairman of the society, presided.

Luncheon

The London Institute The Chairman of the London Institute, Mr Julian E. Markham was the host at a luncheon held on Wednesday, March 19, at the Institute's headquarters in Davies Street, WI. The guests included: Street, Wi. The guests included:
Mr Stuart Hampson, Chalirman of
John Lewis Partnership pic: Mr
Bruce Oldfield, OBE: Mr Clinton
Silver, CBE, Chalirman of the British
Fashion Council; Mr Robert Bright,
Governor, The London Institute Mrs
Jenifer Rosenberg, OBE, Governor,
The London Institute Sir William
Stubbs, Rector, The London Institute
and Jane Rapley, Dean of Fashion
and Textiles, Central Saint Martins
College of Art and Design.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Lord Alport, 85, Mis-Laraine Ashton, fashion models agent, 51: Mr George Benson. singer and guitarist, 54, Viscount Bolingbroke, 70; Mrs Betty Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 64: Miss Sheila Cameron, QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 63: Mr Philip Ely, former President, Law Society, 61: Mr. Brian Hanrahan, hmadcaster, 48: Mr D.C. Ingman, former chairman. British Waterways Board. 69; the Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 71: Professor Harry Kay. former Vice-Chancellor. Exeter University. 78: Lord Lloyd-Webber, 49; M Marcel Marceau. William Shatner, actor. mime artist, 74: Mr R.P. Mardling. Headmaster, Queen Elizabeth Captain Kirk in Star Trek. Grammar School, Wakefield, 53, beams up to 66 today Mr Alan Opie, baritone, 52: Mr C.S. Pick, publisher, 80: Sir Lynden Pindling, former Prime Minister of the Bahamas, 67: Professor William Ritchie, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University 57: Mr Paul Schockemöhle, showjumper, 52: Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer and lyricist. ing. 50.

67: Professor Sir Colin Spedding.

chairman, Council of Science and

Technology Institutes, 72: Lord Stokes, 83: Mr Leslie Thomas, author, bb: Admiral Sir Richard

Thomas, 65: Professor Sir Leslie

Turnberg, President, Royal Coll-

Faculty of Public

Health Medicine

The Princess Royal delivered the

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother lecture, followed by a reception in her honour at the

Royal College of Physicians of London to mark the 25th anniver-

sary of the Faculty of Public Health

Medicine on March 20. The Presi-

dent, Dr June Crown, was the hos

at the 25th anniversary dinner. The

guests included:

guests included:
Professor Sir Richard Doll. Professor
I.N. Morris, Dr W. Harding, Dame
Rosemary Rue, Professor W.W.
Holland, Professor Sir Cyril
Chantler, Dame Deirdre Hine, Sir
Henry Yellowies, Sir Donald
Acheson, Lady Alexander of Weedon,
Sir Christopher Paine, Mr P. Hunt,
Dr R. Maxwell, the Mayor of
Camden, Councillor G. Lazenoy,
representatives of the Nuffield
Provincial Hospitals Trust, the
President of the Royal College of
Nursing and the Presidents of
Medical Royal Colleges and
Faculties.

University news

Professor David George Crichton, FRS. Professor of Applied Mathematics and Fellow of St

John's College, has been elected Master of the college from September 30, 1997.

Jesus College, Cambridge

ego of Physicians, 63: Miss Fanny Waterman, concert pianist and teacher, Tr. Professor D. Watson, director. Brighton University, 48: Miss Priscilla Yates, a former director, Royal Academy of Danc-TOMORROW: Princess Eugenie

of York is 7 today. Professor H.C. Allen, American historian, SD: Mr Michael Atherton, cricketer, 24: Mr Norman Bailey, haritone, 64: Sir Roger Bannister, former Master, Pem-

man to run sub-four minute mile. 68: Mr Bryan Bass, Headmaster, City of Lendon School, 63: Professor R.J. Bennett, FBA, geographer. 49. Professor Francis Berry, poet and Shakespearean scholar. \$2: Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP. 44: Mr Barry Cryer, comedian and writer. 62: Professor Michael Gleeson, otolaryngologist, 49: Mr Peter Godfrey, chartered accountant, 73; the Rev Dr Peter Graves, superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 54: Professor Kenneth J. Gregory, Warden, Goldsmiths' College, 59; Ms Lis Howell, former director of pro-grammes. GMTV, 46; Mr Akira Kurosawa, film director, 87: Sir Geoffrey Leigh, chairman, Allied London Properties. 64: Sir David McNee, former Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 72: Mr Michael Manser, architect, 68: Mr Andrew Mitchell, MP, 4l; Mr Alfred Morris, MP, 69; Mr Michael Nyman, composer, 53; Sir Raiph Perring, former Lord Mayor of London, 92: Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman. Merseyside Development Corporation, 62; Dr P.R. Scott. Headmaster, Bancroft's School, Woodford Green, 47; Sir lan Todd, former President, Royal College of Surgeons, 76: Sir Edward Warner, diplomat, 86; Sir Denis Wright diplomat, 86.

broke College, Oxford, and first

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, Antwerp, 1599; William Pulteney, Earl of Bath. statesman, London, 1684; William King of Prussia 1861-88. German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1797; Carl Rosa, founder of the opera company bearing his name, Hamburg, 1842: "Chico" Marx, actor and comedian, New York, 1891: Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, Liverpool, 1910: Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician. Berlin.

DEATHS: Jean-Baptiste Lully. composer, Paris, 1687; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet, Weimar. Germany. 1832: Thomas Hughes, politican and author of Tom Brown's Schooldays, Brighton, 1846: Frederick William Farrar, writer of school stories and Dean of Canterbury 1895-1903, Canterbury, 1903, Michael Todd, film magnate, killed in an air crash, New Mexico, 1958. Because of a drought the American side of the Niagara Falls ran short

of water, 1903. The first cabs with taxi meters began operating in London, 1907. The Arab League was founded in TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperi-alist, Giessen, Germany, 1854; Sir Muirhead Bone, water colourist and etcher. Glasgow. 1876; Juan Gris, painter and pioneer of Cubism. Madrid. 1887; Joan Crawford. actress. San Antonio, Texas, 1908: Wernher von Braun, pioneer of rocketry, Wirsitz, Germany, 1912; Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor. Barnes, 1920; Donald Campbell, holder of land and water speed records. Horley, Surrey, 1921. DEATHS: Stendahl (Marie-Henri Beyle), novelist, Paris, IS42; Raoul Dufy, painter, Forcalquier, France, 1953.

London's first tramcars, designed by a Mr Train of New York, began operating from Bayswater, 1861. An Italian socialist journalist, Benito Mussolini, formed the Fascists to fight liberalism and communism, 1919.

Austin Peay, Governor of Ten-nessee, signed a statute forbidding the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution in state schools, 1925. • The first official meeting for 400 years between the heads of the Catholic and Anglican Churches took place in Rome, 1966.

Memorial service

Group Captain George Montgomery The Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Group Captain Monty Montgomery, former Secretary of Norfolk Naturalists' Trust and Honorary Appeal Secretary of the University of East Anglia, held yesterday in Norwich Cathedral, The Canon Pastor officiated and the Vice-Dean pronounced the blessing.

Mr Patrick Montgomery and Mr Michael Montgomery, sons, read the lessons. Mr Keith McDougall gave

an address. The Archdeacon of Norwich, Canon Michael McLean and the Rev Piers Currie were robed and in the

Dulwich College

Dulwich College is pleased to announce the following awards:

C D Broad Scholarships: O' holds
Bickley Park School
Harold Penney Scholarships: P R J
Hazell, Dulwich College Preparatory
School: S R P Joyce, Dulwich College
Preparatory School
Harriey Shawcrass Scholarships: T A
Edmonds, Dulwich College
Preparatory School: P B M Marsh,
Dulwich College Preparatory School
H M Michell, Dulwich College
Preparatory School: J E B Weatherfill,
Dulwich College Preparatory School
Dr H M Fisher Scholarship: N D W
Ashcroit, Rokely School
Alleyn Club Scholarship: P Powles.

ASECTUR, KOKEDY SCHOOL
Alleyn Chih Scholarship: J E Powles.
Dulwich College Preparatory School.
Art Scholarship: C M Milner. Dulwich
College Preparatory School.
Music Scholarship: N Spiers. Ring's
College Cambridge Choir School.

At 11*
Baibridge Scholarships: T P Grundy, Rosemead Preparatory School; J W-I Wong, Rosemead Preparatory School; W E B Day, Southwark Small School; C W E B Day, Southwark Small School; C W E B Day, Southwark Small School; T M I Pullin, Dulwich College Lower School: M Selvan, Dulwich College Lower School; M Selvan, Dulwich College Lower School. A Clare, Eliot Bank Primary School: T Tanaka, Eliot Bank Primary School: T Tanaka, Eliot Bank Primary School: T Tanaka, Eliot Bank Primary School: J Pelzig, Honeywell Junior School: J Pelzig, Honeywell Junior School: J Grazaine Wilson Memorial Haviland, John Bail Primary School: J Pelzig, Honeywell Junior School. Lorraine Wilson Memorial Scholarships: B A Glagbalye, Rosemead Preparatory School: J W F. Water W. School: T A Stofer, Dulwich College Lower School: C J O Owen, Dulwich College Lower School. C G D Taxer Memorial Scholarship:

C C P Tamer Memorial Scholarship: D Y S Lau. Worsley Bridge Junior

At 104
WE Grey Scholarships: S B Block.
Worsley Bridge Junior School: J Maru.
Cumnor House School: B F Smith.
Our Lady and St Philip Neri School: J
Z-Y A P Salter. Ciapham Manor
Primary School.

Service dinner

4th Parachute Brigade (1942-44) Colonel Geoffrey Powell presided at the annual dinner of the officers' dinner club of the 4th Parachute Brigade (1942-44) Group held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Forthcoming 4 marriages

Mr C.H.D. Bawtree and Miss P.J.B. Daniel The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Bawtree, of Cowden, Kent, and Jane, daughte of Mr and Mrs Michael Daniel, of Chew Stoke, Somerset. Mr M.J. Browning

and Miss S.H. Haywood The engagement is announced between Marcus James, son of Dr and Mrs Hugh Browning, of Harlequin House, Lasham, Hampshire, and Sarah Helen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs. Michael Haywood, of Dulwich International College, Phuket,

Thailand. Mr N.A. Collingridge and Miss S.L. Northey The engagement is armounced between Neil, only son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Collingridge, of Tavistock, Devon, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr Christopher Northey, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Mrs Stella Ziegler, of Vevey,

Switzerland. Mr G. Lightwood and Miss H. Harman The engagement is announced between Gary, second son of Mr and Mrs Peter Lightwood, of Weston-super-Mare, and Henrietta, only daughter of Mrs. Carolyn Harman and the late Mr Michael Harman, of Bristol

Mr A.P. Marcell and Miss C.M. Bruno The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Marcell, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Carol, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bruno II. of Long Island, New York

Mr C.C. Pilling and Miss C.A. Beckett The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Pilling, of Winder House, Laughterton, Lincoln, and Caroline (Bumble). daughter of Mr John Beckett and the late Mrs Angela Beckett, and stepdaughter of Mrs Jan Beckett,

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Hampton Bye. Malpas. Cheshire. Mr C.J. Walcot and Miss K.S. Walters The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Professor and Mrs P. Walcot, of Lisvane, Cardiff, and Kathryn, elder daughter of Major and Mrs

C. Walters, of Lisvane. Cardiff.

Liverpool College The Governors have appointed Mr J.P. Siviter, MA(Oxon), CPhys. FinstP, as Principal from Septem-ber 1997. Mr Siviter is at present Deputy Headmaster at Bancroft's

School, Essex.

Church services tomorrow

STANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch. God so loved (Stainer), The Provost: 6.30 ES. Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons). Hosanna to the Son of David (Cloodis). ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M; Blessed Jesu fount of mercy (Dvorak), The Dean; 3.15 Confirmation Service, Modal Euch (White), The Archbishop. SETVEC, MOGRI EUCH (WRITE), THE ATCHDENOP.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M. Drop drop slow tears (Gibbons); 11 S Euch, Kyrie aererna Christi munera (Palestring), Crux fidels (Ring John IV of Portugal); 3,30 Confirmation, Pray that Jerusalem (Palestring), Crux fidels (Ring John IV of Portugal); 3,30 Confirmation, Pray that Jerusalem (Palet), BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9,15 HC. 11 Choral Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Christus factus est (Bruckner), 60 to dark Gethsemane Choral Euch, russaints that he was the Christis factus est (Bruckner). Go to dark Gethsemane (Bach): 4 Choral E. It is a thing most wonderful (Moore, Rr Rev P Hall.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M. All glory land and honour farr. Bach). Canon Hall: 10.30 Euch. Missa brevis (Palestrina). Hossanna to the Son of David (Weelkes): 4 Choral E.

glory laud and honour Jarr. Bach). Canon Hall: 10.30 Euch. Missa brevis (Palestrina). Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes): 4 Choral E.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Holy Euch. Piainsong. The Dean: 3.30 E. Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch. Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes).
CADEIRAL: Callege Green 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch. Hosanna is othe Son of David (Weelkes).
CADEIRAN EANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch: 9.45 Cymun Bendigald: 11 Procession & Choral Euch. Hosanna to the Son of David (Hutchings): 3.15 The Crucifidion (Stainer): 5 Cosber, Emynao.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 10.50 Hessing of Palms, Procession & Euch. Pueri Hebracorum (Victoria), The Dean: 3.15 E & Admission of Assistant Organis. Tutor of tremor (Poulenc): 6.30 Compiline. Rev P Brett.
O Saviour of the world (Goss): 3 E. Short Service (Byrd). CHELMSPORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, The Acting Provost: 9.30 Procession & Sung. Euch. Remember not lord our offences (Procession & Sung. Euch. Remember not lord our offences (Procession & Sung. Euch. Remember not lord our offences (Procession & Sung. Euch. Remember not lord our offences (Procession) (Bard): 1.30 Choral Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd): 1.30 Choral M, The Lamentadon of Jeremiah Bairstow), Canon O Conway. 3.30 Choral E, All glory (Bach): 6.30 E. Canon O Conway.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L 8 HC: 10 M, Benedicite (Sumsion in Bian). Poeri Hebracorum (Palestrina). Rev J McKechnie; 11: 17 Procession & Seuch. Drop drop stow tears (Leighton): 3.30 E. Blair in B minor, Glory and honour and laud (Wood).
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC: 10 M & Sermon. Miserer (Victoria), Canon Webster; 11: 15 S

Canon Peirce; 6 E. Christus factus est (Bruckner). COVENTRY CATREDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communicion; 10.30 Procession of Palms and Euch, Nol montem (Morley), Canon P Oestreicher); 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish Lutherans; 5 E. Thou knowest Lord (Purcell). Polish Lutherans; 5 E. Thou knowest Lord (Purcell).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch. Hosanna to the Son (Werkles): 6 E. Dyson in D, Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), The Provost.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Hodgson: 10 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes). Canon D Brown; 11.15 HC. Drop drop slow tears (Leighton). Canon S Pedies; 3.30 E, Rubbra in A flat.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Rev J McFarlane; 10.30 Procession & S Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Trepte). Rev J 10.22 A S. E. First Service Sheoherd). ELY CATHEDRAL: 8,15 HC, Rev J McFarlane; [0.30 Procession & S Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Trepte), Rev J Inge: 3,45 E. First Service (Shepherd).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Said: 10 Procession of Palms and S Euch. Ave verum corous (Byrd); 3,30 E. Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 6,30 E. Hosanna to the Son of David (Moore), Canon K Parry, GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12,15 HC; 10,15 Biessing of Palms & Procession, The Passion according to St Mark (Sanders); 3 E. Dyson in D. Greater love (Ireland), Canon N Chaffield.

GUILDPORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Dr I Fisher. 10,30 S Euch. St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Salvator murol (Palls), The Deam 6,30 E. Bubbra in A Hat, Ler all the world (V Millams), Canon Dr M Palmer.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 7,30 M; 8 HC; 10 The Hurry, Flainsong; Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 4 Choral E. Husannah to the Son of David (Weelkes), 4 Choral E. First Service (Tomkins), Hear my prayer O Lord (Purcell), Organ Music (Bacch).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. The Lunty of Palm Sunday with Procession of Palms, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 5 Matthew Passion (Victoria), 3,30 E. The Fifth Service (Tomkins), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 12.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 13.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), 11.15 M, He Langeriation (Balrstow), It is a thing most wonderful (Irriand); 12.30 HC; 3,49 E. O Lord my God why hast thou forsale not Hermiter), Canon J Bayley. LiveRPDOL CATHEDRAL: 7,30 M & Litany, 8 Holy Buch, The Deau; 9 Proc & Parish Buch, The Deau; 9 Proc & Parish Buch, The Deau; 9 Proc & Parish Buch, The Deau

Crucifidom (Stainer): 6.30 E. Solus ad Victiman (Leighton), Canon J Atherton.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Si Mark Passion (Sanders), Salvator mundi (Blow): 3.30 E. Vinca mea electa (Poulenc, Rev M Talbot: 6.30 Young People's Buch, Mass of Si Thomas (Thornet: 6.30 Young People's Buch, Mass of Si Thomas (Thornet: PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 9.30 M, Benedicite in G (Jackson): 10.30 Procession of Palms & Euch, Missa Cantuariersis (Rubbral, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), The Dean; 3.30 E. Glory and honour (Wood); 7.30 Si John Passion (Bach).

PORTS MOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Call to remembrance (Parant), Canon D Isaac: 5.30 Diocesan Pilgrimage, Rev Dr P Newell.

RIPPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Puch, Rev D Murfet: 9 Palm BIRDON CATHEDRAL: 8 Puch. Rev D Murfet: 9 Palm Procession, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkest: 9.30 Euch, Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Canon M Glanville-Smith: 11.30 M. The Lamentation of Jeremiah (Bairslow), Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons): 12.30 Euch, Canon E Eason: 3 Holy Baptism: 5.30 E. Magnificat and Nunc Dimiths (Jackson in G), Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), Canon K Purshon. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M. Salvator Mundi (Tallis), All glory (Bach); 10.30 Processon of Palms, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes), S Euch and Reading of the Passion, Salvator Mundi (Tallis); 3.15 E. If ye love me (Tallis), Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes). REALING OF PASSION. SAVAMY WITHOUT (LABIS): 3-13

E. If ye love me (Tallis), Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC & Blessing of Palms, Canon D Durston; 10 Proc of Palms & Euch. Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes), Missa Bel'amfirit altera (Orlando di Lasso): 11.45 M. The Lamentation (Bainstow), Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), Canon D Durston: 3 E. Stanford in C. Glory and honour and laud (Wood).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 MF: 10.30 S Euch & Blessing of Palms, Congregational Mass. Pueri Hebraroum (Palestrina), Canon C Smith; 4 Company of Cathedra! Change Ringers. 6.30 E & Sermon, Murrill in E, Hosanna (Weelkes), The Provost.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch. The Provost: 10 Choral Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), God so loved the world (Stainer), Reading of the Passion: 3 Choral E, Fifth Service (Tomkins), Miserere (Allegri), Angela Tilby.

Angela Tilby.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Litany, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes): 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, The Provost; 11.5 Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Cibbons), The Precentor: 3.15 E. Collegium Regale (Wood), Giory and honour (Wood); 5.45 Compilios. Compune.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M: 10 S Euch, Messe
Solennelle (Vierne): 2.30 Confirm Serv: 6 E. Christus
factus est (Brucknet), The Treasurer.
WAREFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. The Provost: 9.15
Parish Com, Benedicus (Faure), Canon R Capper; 11

Solemn Euch, Mass (Monteverd), St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Glory and honour (Wood), Canon I Knox; A Music & Readings.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC with Blessing of Palms; 945 S Euch. Missa Camurariensis (Rubbra). Very Rev R Lewis, 3 E. Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons). Rev P Warker. Guibbonsi. Rev P Walker.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M. Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion). Canon D Hutt. 11.15 Biessing of Palms. Procession & Abbey Euch. Passion occording to St Matthew (Victoria); 3 E. Hosanna to the Son of David (Glibbonsi. Canon A Harvey: 5.45 Recital; 6.30 Evening. Rev B Fention. WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 9 Family Mass: 10 Solemin Procession & Mass, Improperium expectavi (Lassus); 2.45 Recital: 3.30 Solemin V & B. Magnificat octavi toni (Lassus), O crux ave spes unica (Morales); 7.45 Taize Prayer for Young Adults.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M: 10 Blessing of Palms & Procession; 10.30 Liturgy of Palm Sunday, Mass in F sharp minor (Widoris 3.30 E. Collegium Regale (Tavener), The Archdeacon of Basingstoka; YORK MINSTER: 8. 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch. Miss Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Passion according to Si Marthew (Victoria); 4 E. Wood in F. Glory and honour (Wood); 6.30 Concert.

M Pryce.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Ciwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch
& Procession, Collegium Regale (Howells), Hosanna to
the Son (Weelkes), Rev A Mitchell: 3.30 Choral E,
Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons). ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 9.30 Cymun Bendigald, y Deon: 9.30 Family, The Succentor, 11.15 Choral Euch, The Dean: 6 Choral E. O thou sweetest source (Wood), V Rev Or G MacWilliam. SOURCE (WOOD), VEW OF G. MacWilliam.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL S.H.C., Rev R. Davey;

10 S. Euch, Canon M. Shaw, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Sanderstead Service (How), Caldars in G. Author of life divine (Edwards). Ex ore innocentium (Ireland); 11.45 HC 3.30 Choral E. O sacred head sore wounded (Bach), Blair in B minor. sacred head sore wounded (Bach), Blair in B minor.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark 8,10.6 LM:
11.30 Solemn M. Hosanna Filio David (Terry), Pueri
Hebraeorum (Palestrina), Blessing & Distribution of
Palms at all Masses, Archbishop M Bowen: 2.30
Nigerian Mass 5, Stations of the Cross.

ST GILES CATHEDRAL Edimburgh: 8 Morning HC,
The Minister: 10 Morning HC, The Minister, Miss
brevis (ives); 11.30 Palm Sunday, Hosanna to the Son
of David (Gibbons). The Minister; 6 Lenten Address &
Music; 8 Evening, Rev C Kenny.

ST MARY'S CATHEORAL: 8 Each; 10.30 Euch, St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes): 3.30 EP; 6.30 Songs of Praise, Congregational hymn singing.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdees: 11
Morning, Rev F Frazer, 6 Evening, Rev F Frazer, 5
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC with Blessing 8
B Distribution of Palms: 8.45 M; 11 S Euch with Blessing 8 Distribution of Palms, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Are verum corpus (Byrd), Rev S Oilver; 3.15 E, St Paul'S Service (Chapple), Glory and homour and land (Wood), Rev DT E Morris.

RUSSIAN OFTHEORY RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Linurgy, Kievan and tradit polynhony, Diocesan Bish Met, Anthony, and tradit polyphony. Diocesan Bish Met. Amthony.
All Saints, Margaret Street. W1:2, 5.15 LM; 10.20
MP: 11 HM. Mass in B flat, Rachmaninov, The Vicur; 6
EAB Service in B flat, Rachmaninov, Rev i Davies.
All Sourts, Langham Place. W1: 9 Communion: 11
Preb R Bewes: 6.30 Guest Service, Rev D Peterson.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street. W1: 10.45 Missa
rorate coell de super (Haydin), Hossanna to the Son of
David (Weelles). In manus tuas Domine (Wilton).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH. SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's: 11
M. Were you there when they crucified my Lond's
(Spiritual). Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy. GROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTIAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev 5 Hood: 6.30 Rev 5 Hood. FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM: 11 FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 IM: 11 IM.
HOLY TRIDITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9
ASB HC, MrT Peek: 11 Morning, Rev's Downham: 5, 7
Informal, Mr J Jennings.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Mass. S1 Mark, Passion [Lassus]. Improperium expectavi (praestrina): 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass. 3.30 V & B, CWIAS sancti tul (Byrd).
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11
Rev Dr P Graves: 6.30 Service of Music & Meditation for Holy Week.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9
HC: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley). The Passion (Victoria). The Rector; 6.30 Linto the Hands of Sinners for Holy Week.
ST BRIDES. Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch.

Sinners for Holy Week.

ST BRIDES, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Stanford in B flat. Rubhrson in C, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), O hearken thou (Elgar), Canon J Gales, 6.30 Choral E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Hosanna to the Son of David (Glbbons), Canon J Gales.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), O vos omnes (Gesualdo), Rev R Lee. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street,

SW1: 11 Very Rev Dr W Macmillan; 6.30 The temptations of Christ, Eric Thiman. ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place 11 5 Mass, Hosanna fillo David (Terry), Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria), Gioria Laus (Painsong), Mass for four voices (Byrd). Manthew Passion (Victoria), Improperium exspeciavit (Lassus).
ST GEORGES. Hanower Square, WI: 8.30 HC: 11 S
Euch, Rheinberger in E flat. The Rector.
ST LUNES, Chelsea, SW1: 8 HC: 10.30 MP & HC.
Hosanns to the Son of David (Weetkes): 6.50 Choral E.
Lo the full final sacrifice (Finzi). Rev C Kevil-Davies.
ST MARKS. Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC: 9-45 Family
C: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Seiber). Passion (Thomas
Luis de Victoria). Ecce quomodo (Handi). ST MARGARETS. Westminster, SW: 11 Blessing of Palms, Procession & S Euch. Missa simile est regnum (Vitorial, Rosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes). ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8: 12.30 HC: 9.30 Parish Euch, Procession & Cospel Readings: 11.15 Choral M, Rev. F Gelli, 6.30 E. 11.15 Choral M. Rev F Gelli: 6.30 E.

ST MARYS. Bourne Street. SWI: 9, 10.7.15 LM.: 11 HM.
Music by Weelkes. Anerio. Lassus & Victoria. Fr B Scott.
6 Stations of the Cross & Solemn Benediction
ST PAULS. Wilton Place. SWI: 8,9 HC.: 11 Solemn
Euch. Plainsong. Passion (Victorial. Hosanna
Euch. Plainsong. Passion (Victorial. Hosanna
Edibbons/Weelkes). 0 vos omnes (Gesualdo).
ST PETER'S. Eaton Square. SWI: 8.15 Holy Euch: 9.45
Family Euch: 10.45 Assemble at SI Peter's School,
Hossania to the Son of David (Weelkes). Missa In
Maistre Pietre (Lassus), SI Mark Passion (Lassus)
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCTIDA HM. Maistre Pierre (Lassus), St Mark Passion (Lassus)
CHAPPL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCUIA. HM
Tower of London: 9.15 HC. Rev P Abram: 11 M &
Sermon. Jubilate (Gardner), Hosanna to the Son of
David (Gibbons), Ven J Holliman.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 15 S
Euch, Darke in A minor. Rev J Adams.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC
[1662]: 11 M, The Lamentation. Bairstow/Plainsong.
Hosanna no the Son (Gibbons): 3.30 Readings & Music
for Holy Week.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL South Audiey Street, W1: 8.15
HC: 11 Procession & S Euch. Hosanna to the Son of
David (Weelkes), Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria). Fr E
Wheat. QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch.
Stanford in G, Rev Stuart.

Stanford in G. Rev Strart.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH. Fleet Street: 8 30 HC: 11.15

MP. The Miscrere (Allegri), Benedictus (Davies in G).
Glory and honour (Wood). The Master:
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: 11 M.
Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes). Glory and
Honour (Wood). Rev J Jennings, Band of the Scots
Guards; 12 HC.

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BIRTHS

BEL - On March 17th, to Giles and Emma (not Boger), a son Joseph Richard Femcourt. COX - On March 17th, to Chris and Kathy, a son, Simon James Christopher, a brother for Charlotte and Adam.

EVERSON - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Texry and Julie, a daughter, Charlotte, a sister for James. KITTOW - On March 13th 1997, to Deborah (nee Lupprisa) and Jonathan, a son, John Fergus William Tengus, a brother for Anna and Lucy.

NUGENT - On 13th March, to Rosemary and Jonathan, a son, Nicholas Owen Kendall, a brother for Timothy. PEPPIATT - On March 19th, to Katherine (née Innes) and Giles, a son, Dominic Andrew Changes

POTTER-On March 18th at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Johanna (née Hallett) and James, a son, Charles Nicholas William. STANDISH - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Atms (nee Petro) and Nigel, a beautiful daughter, Georgia Alexandra.

FIARR - On March 9th at The Fortland Hospital, to Melissa and Mark, a son, Charles Alexander, a brother for Peter Hansson. TES. - On March 15th, to Daisy (nee Gray) and Jonathan, a daughter, Jasmine, a sister for Jack and roppy.

HOROUGH0000 - On Manch
15th at The Portland
Hospital, to Avalyn (née
Woekes) and John, a son,
Innathan Austin William.

3

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES CATOLINCHOLSON - BIII and Bloom celebrate 50 years of marriage on Saturday 22nd March 1997, Love and DEATHS ALLEN - On March 15th in his 100th year. Joseph Stanle Allen, of Ovingham Northumberland, Architect 8 Northumberland, Architect & Town & Country Planner, Frofessor Emeritus of University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Widower of Mary Aubrey Pugh and Evelyn Meryi Watts, dear father of Birabeth Jame and Aubrey Paul and a loved grandfather to his nine grandchildren, Funezal Service at St Mary's Chuch, Ovingham on Wednesday 26th March at 11.30 am followed by cremation at Newcastle cremation at Newcastle Crematorium at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired

WATANABE - On October 28th 1996 at the Portland Hospital to Itoe and Hideshipe, a son, Kazuki, brother for Michiko.

RUBY

ANNIVERSARIES

23rd March 1957. Congratulations and love from Andrew, Susan, Duncan and Martin.

DEATHS

AWDRY - Peacefully on 21st March at his home in Rodborough, Stroud, Glos, The Revened Wilbert Verse Awdry O.B.E. aged 85 years. A much loved father and grandfather. There is to be a private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving for Friends and Parishioners at St Mary Magdalague Parish Church, Eodborough on Wednesday March 26th at 12 noon. A Memorial Sarvice is to be held, details of which will be announced is to be seid, devisits or which will be announced later. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent for The Childrens Society clo Philip Ford & Son, Funeral Directors, Diricton House, Cainscress Road, Strond, Glos.

Rood, Stroud, Glos.

RAUGH - On 19th March at
Monmouth Hospital after a
short Elmers Nuclei FJ. aged
74 years of Crockers Ash.
Sadiy missad by all herfamily and friends. Fruenal
service and interment at
Ganarew Church on Tuesday
25th March at 230 pm. No
flowers by request. flowers by request. Donations in Heu for The Local Macmillan Norses

Fund may be sent to David Stockwell, Puneral Director, 16, Glendower Street, Monmouth, Gwent. MONDOUR, GWENT.

BRADLEY - Maurice (Jim)
ARIBA on March 20th
1997 at home, fortified by
the rises of the Holy Church.
Loving and much loved
husband of Dorsen, Punsual
Tuesday March 25th at
Heavitres R.C. Church,
Enstey.

Enster.

CAMPBELL - Brig Alexander Purdon RAS.C. OBE. (ret'd) on 20th March at Bottingdeam. Loved father of Alestair and Authen. Beloved by his grandchildren and great-grandchild. Devoted husband of Alex. Funezal Service on March 27th at 12 noon at Holy Trimity Church, Chrishall, near Royston, Horts. All friends are respectfully invited Family flowers only please, but flowers only please, but domations if desired to The KCIO c/o S. Newling & Son, Funeral Directors, 2 Palace Gardens, Royston, Herts, SGS SAD.

CRAN - Stephanie Jeanus (née Teppar), deanly loved wife of William, adored mother of Jessica, Rebecta and Chloe, at the age of 46, on 20th March after a long litness bravely borne. Funeral Mortlake Crematorium Sunday 23rd March at midday. Domations to Bodley Scott 3 Ward Fund, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London BCIA 75E. "Enge against the dying of the light".

CRAWFORD - Audrey Grinaley peacefully at the St Andrews Memorial Hospital on Wednesday 19th March 1997, beloved wife of John, devoted mother of Vinginia, Susanna and Rowena and adoring grandmother of their children. Service and burial at Dunino Church, near St Andrews, at 2 pm on Tuesday 25th March, Family flowers only. Donations to the Hospice, St Andrews.

DRAKE-BROCKMAN - On March 20th, in Oxford, the Rev. Archibald David, Rev. Archibald David, widower of Famela, and gearly loved father, stepfather and grandfather. Funeral and interment at St. Mary's Church, Grundisburgh, on Thursday March 27th at 3 pm. No flowers. Donations for St. Mary's Church to E.R. Button & Son Ltd., 24 St. John's Street, Woodhridge, Suffolk, IP12 1EB.

PAGEES - Sir John KRE. CMG, peacefully on March 20th at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, aged 87. Dearly loved hasband of Alette, father of Sandm and Mickey, grandfather of Alex, Mina and Charlie. Private funeral. No Memorial Service as wished. Panily Gowas only. wished Panily Howars only. Any donation to The Childrens Society, Edward Rudolph House, Margery Street, London WCLX OJL.

GRAFFIEY-SMITH - Bryonia (Jame), widow of Sir Laurence Barton Graffrey-Smith, on 20th March 1997 peacefully at the Barking Hall Nursing Home, Needham Market, Suffolk in her SSth year Mach loved stepmother of Roper and Jinx Graffrey-Smith, Funeral Service at S. Harry's Church, Coddenham, Suffolk on Wadnesday 26th March at 10.30 am Family flowers only. Enquiries to Messus Farthing, Singleton and Hastings of Ipswich, tel: (01473) 272711. Hastings of Ipsi (01473) 272711.

GROWER - Frederick on March 19th died peacefully at Frincess Alice Hospics. Fumeral on Wednesdry Zeth March 2.30 pm at Christchutch, New Malden. Family flowers only. If desired donations to Princess Alice Hospics, West End Lane, Esher, Surrey KTIO SNA.

MARVEY - John, pencafully on 18th March 1997 aged 67. Beloved husband of Barbana and good friend to many, For years W.S. (solicitor) in Obta. Funeral Service at Castleton Church, Sherbonne at 2 pm on Monday 24th March followed by private cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Friends of The Testmap Hospital. All enquiries to Esson Funeral Services, Sherborne, tel: (01935) 813479.

HASTRESS-The Hon. Lady DL. Elizabeth Anne Marie Gabrielle on 20th March peacefully at Milton. Beloved wife of Stephen, after a long Biness, borne in faith with limitless courage and cheerfulness. Penenal at Castor Church 11 am Wednesday 26th March followed by family burial at Matholm. A coach will meet the train leaving Kings Cross 0930 arriving Peterburough 1019. Flowant to John Lucas (Peterborough) Ltd., 31 Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough, P£1 3AE.

20th 1997 Gwyneth of St Just-in-Roseland, Cornwall. Much loved wife of Edward. Dear Mother of Jonathon, loving Granny of Zoe, Christopher and Alexander. Fomezal Wednesday March 26th 2 pm at St Just-in-Roseland Church followed by cremetion. Dosetions in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research Campaiga. Enquirles to Tregunna, Funezal Director on 01872 273568. KNIGHT - Peacefully in

KNIGHT - Peacefully in hospital, Joyce Stewart Knight of Pembrokeehirs, dearly loved wife of Son. Ldr. B.J.S. Knight and devoted mother of Robert and Missheth, Cathastion Service at Marberth Cramstordum. No mouraing. Donations in memory to The Impedial Cancer Research Fund c/o Dannie Thomas & Son F/D, Fishquard.

Milific Clare, much loved wife and friend to Douglas, denty loved mother of Keith, Iain and Karen and to Theone and Emily and gamdmother of Lauren, died suddenly but peacefully in her steep on 18th March. Funeral Service at Randalis Fark Crematorium, Leatherhead, at 2 pm 2 nd flowers to Walter G. Wortt, tak (01932) 843143.

MOORE - Elieen Ruth, peacefully on 17th March 1997 at Joyce Green Hospital, Dartiord, aged 72 years. Dearly loved sister of Phyllis and Oliver, dear sisten-haw of Evelyn and loving annt of Peter and Jennifer. Funeral Service at Spital Street: Methodist Church, Dartford, on Wednesday 2nd April at 23m. Flowers or donations if desired to The Eliesor Foundation or to The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, clo Leverton Puneral Service, Lowfield Street, Dartford.

Toesday March 18th at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Gethyn, dearly belowed husband of Phyl, much loved father of Sian, Anne and Jeremy, adored grandfather of Gareth, Rhiannon, Olivia, Caroline and Ben, and affectionate father-in-law of Owen. David and Helen affectionate father-in-law of Owen, David and Helen. Service to be held in Llandaff Cathedral at 12.30pm on wednesday March 26th and afterwards at Cardiff Crematorium. No Howers please, fountions if desired to Friends of Llandaff Cathedral Green, Cardiff.

IN MEMORIAM --PRIVATE

FORSYTH - James "Jumbo"
22/3/96. Some say
Cheltenham was the cause,
but most say it was 48 years
of fan, mystry, travel, blue
trumpet, friendship and
love. Death comes at the
fallillineant of life. Through
48, he behaved like 24 and
felt like 96 in the morning.
He got his money's worth in
life, the bookies and castino's
got the balance. Poor old tax
mam - what a purele, he's
ready for his interview now.
From all his family and
fidends, God speed - to the
next adventure and await us
all for we shall all one day
be together. Four winnings
in life were the losses that
so many people felt who
were left behind to
remember. In pussing to
celestial talk, your brother
would appreciate some
divine guidance on the turf
or the wheel. All who knew
Jamis will sever forget - but
after all he was a Forsyth, is
it really all over, we wunder
????

VAN LOO - Margot, died 23mi
March 1992. A mech loved
Wife, Mother and A METHEATH Newspaper. Original Separative presented.

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the daughter, 44, tear

hospital treatment (AP)

IN MEMORIAM — CHADWICK - Major Harry Piers killed in Malaya whilst serving with the Green Howards. Never forgotten. Aima, Patricia, Adrian, Jason ANNOUNCEMENTS TH WAY SCHOOL in the tradition of Gundjieff capenally now accepting sts 0181 347 6353. KAREM D'ABCY will choose the three of clubs. Predicted by Andy Nyman. A SERTHDATE Newspaper 1847-1996 in presentation folder E18.00 inc pltp. Newspap year videox avail. Tel/Fax 01934-412844 9pm 7 days.

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COURT NO 28 of 1996
RE ACVIN ANDREW YEARY (ormenty carrying on beathese as
"The Sneed Arms" 46 Shelton
New Road, Arms' 46 Shelton
New Road, Shelton, Suche Ou
Trent and Shelton, Suche Ou
Trent and Shelton, Suche Ou
Trent and Spellory medicing at The
They and Spellory methalisetons, DRY
SEE occupation UNIXWIN.
On 11 March 1997 the abovemaned Court made a feathruptery
Order segment the above-manned
debug segment the above-manned
debug Souther the above-manned debton systems the above-named debton. NOTE: All debts due to the sexuan should be paid to me. Date 12 March 1997 official Receiver Byloose Prince Regent Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland



***OBITUARIES**

SIR VICTOR PRITCHETT

Sir Victor Pritchett, CH, CBE, short story writer, novelist and critic, died on March 20 aged 96. He was born on December 16, 1900.

Imost as old as the century. V. S. Pritchett became known as the chronicler of the age - a writer who celebrated the essence of Englishness and the changing face of society. A lingering representative of that lost breed, the man of letters, he wrote prolifically: short stories, novels, biographies, travelogues and reviews. The moment he had cleaned his pipe and put pen to paper, he said, he was under the spell of the language which had ruled him since he was ten.

Yet Pritchett lived at a slant to his society, sensitive to the pull of its undertow. He found his subject on the scrapheap of a literary tradition which, up until then, had found no place for treatments of lower middle-class commercial life. It was not even possible to write about such people without resorting to comedy, H. G. Wells once told Pritchett during a discussion of E.M. Forster's heavy handling of Leonard Bast, But Pritchert had grown up among such people and he pioneered a new way of writing about them, using colloquial speech to reveal an inner life, eschewing theoretical or philosophical analysis in favour of "a portrayal of character for its own sake".

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The drama of the puritanical conscience was his domain. He revelled in what he called its "comedies of duplicity", its "eloquence of hypocrisy". His characters moved in an almost biblical world. burdened by shame and pride and guilt. Princhett was alive to the terrors of the soul. But, weak and sinful though his characters may have been, he was never censorious. "I'd much sooner see them go on unpunished," he said. "I think the incurable side of human nature is what appeals to me." He entered into their predicaments with directness and sympathy. When in 1990 his stories were all finally collected together into a single cuboid volume, one reviewer described them as "a million little epiphanies which build up something vast".

Pritchett's novels - as he himself admitted — took second place to his stories. Although characters such as Mr Beluncle proved fine comic creations in the tradition of Dickens, the structure of the whole was flawed. But Pritchett's biographies of Flaubert, Balzac and Turgenev were scholarly and sensitive.

As a book reviewer in the New Statesman, with which he was closely involved for some fifty years, Pritchett seemed able to enter into the minds of authors as diverse as Gide and Tolstoy. Lawrence and Dickens. His reviews were described as a mixture of generous connoisseurship and inspired psychology". With a modesty characteristic of his refined civility, he did not, as a reviewer.

reaction to the author he was writing about. He never pompously brandished the personal pronoun, or succumbed to what he called "the technological habits" of academic criticism. He vigorously refused to view literature as some sort of esoteric game, played for the benefit of the literary establishment.

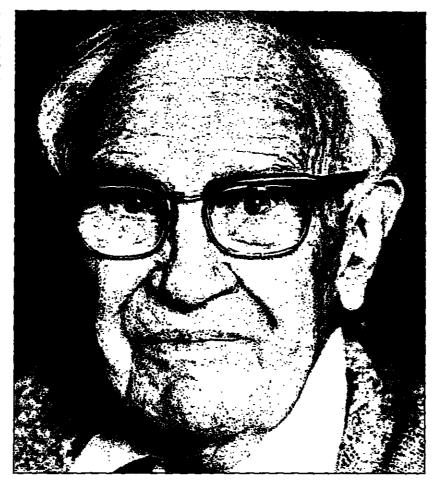
Victor Sawdon Princhett was born in Ipswich but brought up in London. His loyal parents named him after Queen Victoria - still on the throne, though ailing, at the time he was born. But he never liked the name, not least because as a child he had known a vicious baby-biting dog called Victor. For most of his life he hid behind his initials, and was always known as VSP to family and

His childhood was peripatetic. His mother, Beatrice, he described as "a roctless London pagan, a fog-worshipper, brought up on the London streets". His father was a Micawberish figure, perennially insolvent but strutting through life in a natty suit, eternally optimistic that his latest business venture would come good. Together they drifted from suburb to suburb, from one red-brick villa to the next, the only continuity in the young Victor's life a moveable clutter of potted palms and mottoed ornaments. On the morning of each move, he recalled, a cub would draw up at the door, while his mother wept and his father tried to jolly her along, singing old music-hall songs: *Oh dry those tears, oh calm those fears, life will be brighter tomorrow."

But Pritchett and his two brothers and sister were as inquisitive and energetic as any children. Enchanted by "the lurid quality of industrial London", he loved wandering the streets. His two-volume autobiography, A Cab at the Door [1968] and Midnight Oil (1971), is redolent of the bowler-hatted, Edwardian era of gaslight, smogs and Wesleyan chapels, breweries, tan-yards, port and stout. As a boy Pritchett longed to be one of the urchins scavenging among the horse-drawn traffic: "They wore wide-brimmed hats and lived so dangerously."

His enthusiasm for literature was awakened young. He met local people with interesting literary pretensions -neighbours such as the ardent Fabian Socialist with his splendid collection of Green classics, or the blowsy Mrs O'Dwyer, always ready to discuss Racine and Montesquieu. At home Pritchett was nicknamed "the professor" and treated as a tolerated joke".

it was while he was a pupil at Alleyn's School. Dulwich, that he decided he wanted to write. While his father was away during the First World War. he, as the eldest child, was left to look after his mother at home. One night there was a zeppelin raid. He remembered dashing out into the streets amid a crowd of excited children to see the huge silver airship, glearning in the convergence of the searchlight beams. Suddenly the zeppelin consider himself interesting beyond his was hit. The children watched it buckling at the newspaper buildings.



and breaking apart, falling like a vast vermilion torchilame beyond the roofline. At school the next day, the children were asked to describe what they had seen. But after Victor had written down 'Bang! Boom!" he felt that he was stuck. Only when he remembered how sorry he had felt for his mother did his thoughts begin to flow. "I hit by this accident on the first duty of the novelist, to become someone else." he later said. "I pretended to be my mother and in her person, told what she felt as she called her children down and hysterically thought of her

Pritchett was not to go on to further education. Quite arbitrarily his parents decided, on the day that his father was derailed on the Manchester-London express, that he must leave school at 15 and go to work in a tannery. For two years he took employment as a clerk for a company in Bermondsey, the traditional centre of the London leather trade. But what might have crushed a weaker literary ambition only fuelled Pritchett's own. He found Dickensian romance in his job. Amid the sulphurous fumes of the tannery, he saw strangeness and exoticism.

husband."

During his lunchbreaks he would roam London, wandering up Fleet Street to gaze

churches to listen to Bach fugues, strolling the streets of vice-ridden Soho and sitting on wharfsides watching dockers at work. "London was not a city," he wrote. "It was a foreign country as strange as India. Often I longed to be in love, but I already was in love. London was seeping into me without my knowing it."

When he was 19, Pritchett, "well smoked and kippered" by Bermondsey, left for Paris where he took work as a commercial traveller, selling shellac, glue and ostrich feathers from shop to shop. There he discovered a talent and passion for foreign languages and literatures. He learnt to speak French fluently, and later Spanish and German too - well enough to dream in them." he said.

Left Bank culture was flourishing at this time, but Pritchett had little contact with it. He never met Henry Miller and, indeed, was so naive that losing his virginity became, he liked later to recall, the stuff of farce. So nervously faltering was his first purchase of contraceptives that, when the time eventually came to use them, he found he had been sold a box of liver pills.

Pritchett's first appearance in print was equally unusual: a two-sentence joke published in a newspaper. It could hardly

the first of the railway stories

were told, at a time when he

was recovering from measles. Margaret Awdry thought her

husband's stories too attrac-

for more, but in his early twenties he applied for a job as a foreign corres-pondent for the Christian Science Monitor this father had been a Christian Scientist). He was sent to Ireland during the Troubles, and then to Madrid. His first travel book was called Marching Spain (1928) and his first collection of short stories The Spanish Virgin (1930).

This collection of short stories was accepted for publication only on condition that it would be followed by two novels. Pritchett went on to write Shirley Santz (1932) and Nothing Like Leather (1935). They sold only three or four hundred copies, the stories three or four thousand.

In 1928 Pritchett began book reviewing for the New Statesman funder the literary editorship of Raymond Mortimer). At first he saw his work there simply as a way to supplement a meagre publisher's advance, but his association with the magazine was to become a long and productive one. He reviewed for the New Statesman from 1928 to 1978, and in the 1950s even took the position of literary editor for a short while. But he never liked office life and detested "the bickerings of editors". "I have always worked almost secretly at home," he explained. "I am a natural solitary, and the only person I quarrel with is myself." In 1951 he joined the New Statesman board of directors and, while he tended to sit at board meetings rather like a doormouse, did not resign until 1978.

Pritchett married for the first time when he was very young but it was a brief liaison and was soon dissolved. He always used to say that his life only really fell into place when he met his second wife, Dorothy, on Guy Fawkes Night in 1934. It was a coup de foudre - the kind of passion, he used to say, which was the only kind of thing to make a man responsible. He knuckled down to the life of a writer, father and family man.

During the Second World War, Pritchett was employed by the Government to write pamphlets, surveying factories, shipyards and mines. Even this interruption of his writing career he turned to his advantage. He read the whole of Richardson's vast epistolary novel Clarissa on the train as he travelled round Britain making a study of the railway networks.

Pritchett claimed never to have been inside a university until he was 50, when he was asked to give a seminar — "I didn't even know what a seminar was." But he subsequently found himself lecturing all over America. In 1953 he was Christian Gauss lecturer at Princeton University and in 1962 Beckman Professor at Berkeley. He spent periods as writer-in-residence at Smith College, Massachusetts, and Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, and was visiting professor at Brandeis and Columbia universities. American students warmed to the tweedy Englishman with his pipe and thickframed spectacles. He, on his side, was and lively vernacular, though he did admit to finding American earnestness

sometimes exhausting.

Pritchett used his time in America to include his passion for walking. In his youth he had tramped across France and Spain, drawing many of his ideas from strange human contacts made on the way. He was proud of the hundred-mile hike he made through the mountains from Johnson City in Tennessee to Ashville in North Carolina. Even in extreme old age he took pleasure in the rambles he made around Regent's Park.

At the beginning of the 1960s Princhett moved with his family into a tall terraced house north of Regent's Park in a literary region of London where his neighbours included such people as Claire Tomalin and Alan Bennett. Here he continued his daily writing routine, working from nine until one every morning, and then, after lunch and a brief stroll in the streets (he passed himself off to any who accosted him as an old age pensioner called Pritchard), he returned to his desk from

is manuscripts were penned in an insectile longhand which his wife later typed, I making sportive guesses where words were indecipherable and laughing at his spelling mistakes. The typescripts were then meticulously corrected and recorrected by Pritchett, and

typed out anew by his wife each time. Pritchett was one of the most popular literary figures in London. In private he was a tower of strength to successive editors of the New Statesman, consistently seeking to promote talent. (He withdrew from the affairs of the periodical only when it ceased to believe in the values that he upheld.)

In 1968 he was appointed CBE, and from 1974 to 1976 was international president of PEN. He was knighted in 1975 and made a Companion of Honour in 1993. Many believe that he was wrongly overlooked for the Nobel Prize for Literature and he never won the Booker Prize because he chose the art of the short story rather than the novel.

Although Pritchett confessed that he was slowing with age, he was always ready to react to his times. "It seems to me that my life as a man and as a writer has been spent on crossing and recrossing frontiers," he said. "That is at the heart of any talent I have." As each decade rolled to its close, he would be asked to write about what it was like to be as old as the century, and these essays became milestones marking the changing times.

Pritchett is survived by his second wife, Dorothy, and by their daughter and son; the latter, Oliver, is a columnist on The Daily Telegraph. And the talent passes on into the third generation. Of Pritchett's five grandchildren, one, Georgia, is a television scriptwriter, and another. Matt. is the pocket cartoonist for The Daily

THE REV W. AWDRY

The Rev W. Awdry, OBE. clergyman and children's author who created Thomas the Tank Engine, died vesterday aged 85.

He was born at Ampfield.

Hampshire, on June 15,

WHEN in 1984 ITV introduced a series of films about Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends, it brought to the television screen a group of characters who had already enchanted several generations of children. From the day it started, almost by accident in 1945, the Rev W. Awdry's sesuccess. Even before television brought the characters to a mass audience, the series had begun to assume the trappings of a small myth.

With the animated television films, however, narrated by the former Beatle Ringo Starr, the potential of the series was recognised by wider commercial forces, and Awdry's creations have since been turned to account in marketing more than five hundred products, from real model engines to pasta shapes. They have also been subject to almost every gim-mick known to publishing, ries of railway stories — "the train books with faces" — had and are now found as pop-up books, bath books, sticker been an enormous and instant books and so ad infinitum.

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Wilbert Vere Awdry's love of railways was with him from birth. His father, also a clergyman, was called "the railwayman parson*, and was said to know more about the old Great Western Railway than most of its employees. Wilbert's later childhood was spent within earshot of the Bristol line, near Box Tunnel. and, along with his father, he became a model railway enthusiast. Asked later in life why so many Anglican clergymen seemed fascinated by steam trains, he would reply

> best means of getting people to their destination". Awdry was educated in more formal matters at

that both parties are still the

Dauntsey's in Wiltshire and at for their son, Christopher, that St Peter's College, Oxford, graduating in 1932 and going on to Wycliffe Hall to take a diploma in theology. He spent three years as an assistant master at St George's School, Jerusalem, before being ordained deacon in 1936, and priest a year later. He had a busy working life as a parson; after several curacies and rectorships, he became rural dean at Bourne in Cambridgeshire from 1950 to 1953. His last living was at Emneth in Norfolk, 1953-65, after which he moved to Stroud in Gloucestershire and devoted himself to writing full-time. Awdry had married, in 1938,

tive to be forgotten and so began a complicated sequence of wartime negonations in quest of a publisher. Eventually contact was made with Edmund Ward, a printer in Leicester, who was seeking to improve the provision of children's books in a time of dearth. He bought the first three little stories outright for a fee of £25 and worked on the manuscripts with Awdry, who had also contrived his own sketchy illustrations. Margaret Emily Wale, It was

These stories, with one more added and with redrawn pictures, made up the first book, The Three Railway Engines. which appeared four days after VE-Day. With its successor, Thomas the Tank Engine (1946), it proved so successful that Ward turned the venture into a more professional operation, and from 1948 onwards Awdry produced a book a year, with illustrations prepared by C. Reginald Dalby in Awdry's manner. Other illustrators were also used before Awdry brought his part of the series to a close with Tramway Engines in 1972. Twenty-six ritles in all had steamed along

the tracks. "The stories are all based on fact," Awdry once said, explaining how he tried to preserve an authenticity behind the lancy by working up



stories from incidents that really happened. Nevertheless, the lasting appeal of the books to children (if not always to their parents, who sometimes had to labour through some rather lacklustre prose) was the character-isation of the engines, with their near human traits: the lordly Gordon (the Express Engine) being baited by the

irrepressibly cheeky Thomas.

or the foolish female carriages. Awdry was unmoved by charges of racial or sexual stereotyping. Attempts to find political satire in the treatment of the Fat Controller have not always been successful. In 1958 and 1961, Awdry

diverged from his accustomed tracks by writing two stories about a Volkswagen car: Belinda the Beetle and Belinda Beats the Band. De-

Awdry's work. He was delighted - and slightly surprised - at the pleasure which his books had brought to so many children (now as far away as Japan) and he gave much encouragement to his son Christopher to build upon the tradition that he had established. Awdry, who was actively involved in steam railway preservation, also edited or

spite slightly corny plots, these

were more racily told than some of the railway series and

came to be reprinted as part of

the continuing promotion of

collaborated on books on The Industrial Archaeology of Gloucestershire (1973). The Birmingham and Gloucester Railway (1987) and an enthusiastic Guide to the Steam Railways of Great Britain (1979), which celebrated the work of the railway preservation societies. The insistence upon accuracy demonstrated in these books, combined with his possessiveness towards his popular creations, led him to be critical of the television exploitation of his work.

But his own high standards were sustained in the books by his son which continued the series, and Awdry was gratified in 1994 to find himself making an appearance in the series himself as an 0-6-0 Hunslett called Wilbert the Forest Engine. He was ap-

pointed OBE last year. Awdry's wife died in 1989. He is survived by his son and two daughters.

TRUSTEE ACTS

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SELL IT THROUGH THEXITIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES 0171 481 4000

POLICE. AT WEST LONDON, yesterday, T.W.

DAVENALL, an assistant master at the Hogarth-road Board school, Chiswick, ap-Hogarth-road Board school, Chiswick, appeared before Mr. Curtis Bennett to answer summonses for having assaulted Arthur Thomas Waller, aged 13, and Sidney George Briggs, aged 15, pupils at the school. Mr. Haynes appeared for the prosecution: Mr. W.J. Bull, representing the National Union of Teachers, defended. The boy Waller said that on the afternoon of the 12th inst. he was in the school and was in the class of which school, and was in the class of which defendant was teacher-viz, the seventh standard. He was playing with a puzzle under the desk, and was called out to the front of the class. He went out and held out one hand, on which defendant inflicted a blow with a cane. He was told to hold out the other hand, but would not do so. Defendant then caned him on the legs and hip. Witness kicked the defendant, who then thrashed him again, and got him on the ground. Witness got hold of the cane and tried to get it away from him. The cane was broken in the struggle, and when witness got up he threw an inkwell at defendant. The ink splashed all about, but he did not know whether the well had struck the defendant in the face. Defendant did not hit him again that afternoon, but next morning,

ON THIS DAY

March 22, 1894 **经型物的**

A Landon schoolmaster, though provoked, lost his temper and "inflicted punishment which was altogether unjustifiable". He was fined. The magistrate felt he had behaved in a way that showed that he was unfit to have control of boys.

when he went to school late, defendant called him out of the class, and because he was not so quick as he desired he caught hold of him by the trousers and collar and threw him on the floor. He picked him up again and threw him in the corner. He hurt his hip, and still felt pain, Defendant then sent for a cane and thrashed him on the back, the thigh, the hip, and round the legs. He received about twelve blows, and then went back to his class. Cross examined, he said that he knew the defendant was followd by a number of boys who shouted and hoosed after him, but he was not one of the boys who called after him. He was

him to go home, and struck him across the back with a stick. The lad Briggs said that on the morning of the 13th inst. he was in the class, when the defendant called him out and thrashed him because on the previous Friday he and a number of other lads had run home when they were kept in late. After thrashing him the defendant accused him of being one o the boys who hooted after him on the Monday night. This was not true, and when witness said so the defendant smacked him five times in the face. Several lads were called who supported the statements by these two.
Warrant-officer Cousins said that, by the
magistrate's directions, he had examined the hoys, and found a number of weals on their roys, and found a number of weats on their backs, and Waller's legs especially were very badly bruised. Great violence must have been used to produce such appearances . . Mr. Bull said he should call evidence to show that the punishment was not so severe as had been described. The delendant had authority to punish unruly boys. Waller was a ringlender of unruly lads ... Mr. Curtis Bennett deprecated caning on the hands and boxing the ears, and said they were exceedingly dangerous forms of punishment. Nature provided a special place for boys to be punished upon and it should be used.

standing looking on when a policeman told

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Sleaze overshadows election

■ John Major was depressed and irritated as new sleaze allegations continued to overshadow the Tory election campaign. The Prime Minister was visibly angry as he dismissed as "junk" claims that he had ignored evidence that Tim Smith, the MP for Beaconsfield, had accepted large undeclared cash payments when he appointed him to the Government in .. Pages 1, 10, 11

Children hurt by suicide bomb

Three people were killed and more than 40 wounded when an Islamic suicide bomb ripped through a Tel Aviv coffee shop where children in fancy dress were celebrating the Purim . Pages 1, 18

Tote chairman row

The Tote chairmanship became a casualty of general election fever after Michael Howard and Jack Straw clashed over who should succeed Lord Wyatt...... Page 1

Death decision

A brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die, even though her condition falls short of a permanent vegetative state, a judge ruled Page 2

Husband faces jail A jealous husband was facing iail

as his wife said she would marry the lodger he shot

Penny Lane injunction Sir Paul McCartney obtained an

emergency injunction to stop the lyrics to the song Penny Lane being sold at auction.... Page 5

Holocaust payment

Victims of the Holocaust should receive gold valued at £39 million as a final payment for Jewish treasures looted by the Nazis .. Page 6

Sweeping law

The most sweeping changes in sentencing policy became law with the introduction of automatic minimum sentences for repeat serious violent offenders Page 9

Bravery award

A British yachtsman who saved a stricken rival in a race is to receive France's most celebrated award for bravery.

Mobutu chaos

The return of Zaire's President Mobutu collapsed into bizarre chaos at Kinshasa when the military high command were ordered off the tarmac... Page 16

Summit deadlock

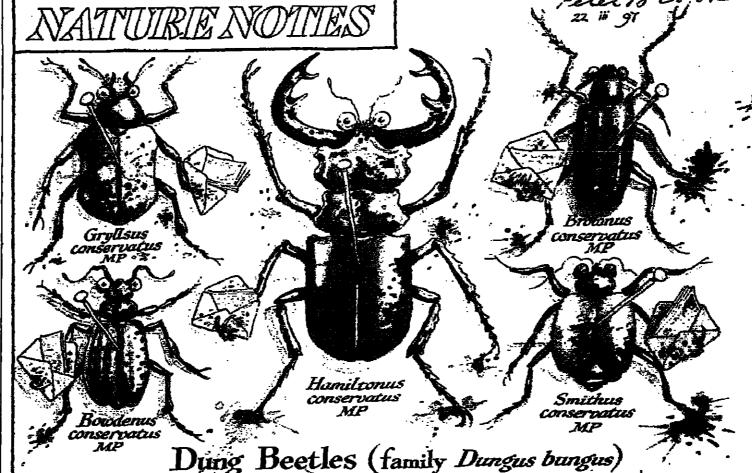
The summit meeting between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin ended in deadlock over European ...Pages 20, 2J security ...

Mercenary freed

The British leader of the foreign mercenaries in Papua New Guinea is likely to be freed Page 17

Musician played with fire

■A teenage double bass player caused "more harm than the KGB" when he hacked into American defence and missile systems from his London bedroom. Richard Pryce managed to obtain the passwords to download the computer records of the US Air Force and Lockheed defence computers.



OPINION

Major's way out: The nation can only make a considered decision after a proper debate but the electorate cannot have confidence there will be a proper debate unless the Prime Minister takes them into his confidence ... Page 25 Bloody Friday: Binyamin Netanyahu's strongest weapon remains his power to gain Israel's advantage from the process that Israel's enemies

LETTERS Granting of bail: Greater London Authority Page 25

want to die ...

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: We should be in no doubt on whose behalf an MP speaks - and who pays for his suitPage 24 Dick Morris: Clinton's former spin-doctor advises the Tories to abandon the strategy that defeated DalePage 24 Derwent May: Longs for the sound of silence -- away from

the voices of sheer torture on

OBITUARIES Sir Victor Pritchett, short story writer and novelist: The Rev W. Awdry. of Thomas

the Tank Engine Page 27

BUSINESS

Anite inquiry: The Stock Exchange is believed to have reopened its inquiries into Anite Group...

Irish move: Tesco plans to invest £100 million over the next three years in the Irish supermarkets that it agreed to buy from Associated British Foods for £630 millionPage 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 3.3 to 4.254.8. On the foreign exchange the pound rose .98 cents to \$1.6038 and 1.11 plennigs to DM2.6997. The sterling index rose to 96.7

SPORT

Football: Liverpool have been drawn against Paris Saint-Germain in the semifinals of the Cup Winners' .Page 56 Golf: Lee Westwood broke the course record with a 63 in the first round of the Turespaña Masters on Gran

Canaria ... Racing: Hawksley Hill is fancied to win the Worthington Lincoln, the first Classic of the Flat season...

CAR 97

How the family Volvo becomes a 160mph racer

ARTS

Richard Morrison does not know what Anthony Payne's completion of Elgar's Third Symphony will be like but his claim that it will be "pure Elgar" is pure piffle...... Page 23 Victorian values: The

Peter Hall Company has revived Cloud Nine, Caryl Churchill's play about sexual ambiguity Page 23 Cook's tour: To coincide

with the arrival of the replica Endeavour the National Maritime Museum is displaying paintings. and ship's items...Page 22

Hammersmith girk New home for the toast of Hollywood . Counter culture: Cures in the high street Page 14

Weekend

Life coach: Personal growth therapy ...



ing; land quality811 Travel: Amazon; iceland: Turkey: Ulster 17-23

Romeo: On the streets of modern Florida Page 6 Jaws: An even more scary ..Page 8 re-issue.



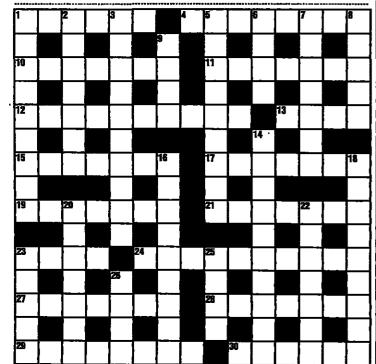
New chapter: The upheaval in publishing45 Heaven on a plate: From Lancashire .. TV and radio listings

🂢 Ѕиллу

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,434

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

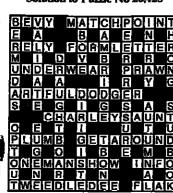
Name/Address .



ACROSS

- 1 Hurled plate cut short debate (6). 4 Mighty hit one gathers in the field
- 10 Grounded bird not much of a meal for old tribesman (7).
- 11 Small group of performers allowed eight lines (7). 12 Hamlet's ancestor sleeping in,
- churchyard he was rude (10). 13 Small, like end of fork? (4).
- 15 Suffer ruin, broken by amount of work (?).
- 17 Suspected hamstring could go in race (7).
- 19 A drop of French perfume (7).
- 21 Examine sound cloth (7).
- 23 Dull bit of scenery (4). 24 Waste for auditors to halt part of
- board meeting (6,4). 27 Disparage every little devil to
- start with (7). 28 See fruit mature - it covers the
- 29 Get it off with rag, possibly? (8). 30 Standing figures with no end of elegance (6).

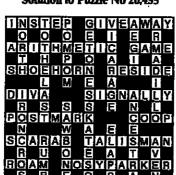
Solution to Puzzle No 20,428



DOWN

- 1 Silent and observed to stagger (9). 2 Marked second, one short of
- being approved (7). Loveless coupling made in the
- dark (10). Real trouble hit Canute (9).
- Forced to listen to this servant (4). 7 Financial success? That's funny
- 8 One messing about in boats, badtempered (5).
- 9 Proper answer (4). 14 Sit around to make appropriate cover for office worker (6.4).
- 16 Unpopular, popular? Tell us quickly! (3.4.2).
- 18 News agency holding column once to be offensive (9).
- 20 Picked up, is about to complain to
- a noted police chief (7). 22 Gardener finding insect under
- stone (7). 23 Throw a dance (5).
- 25 Expected to comprehend coin trick (4).
- 26 New Jumbo has some iexical finesse (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,433



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D Finch, Lye, nr Stourbridge, West Midlands; P Bealby, Stockton-on-Tees: A McConnell, Penrith, Cumbria: H Fox, Yvette, France: M D Friedli, Romsey, Hampshire.

TA INFORMATION

... Page 25

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and used car reports from 0336 416 300 Dial from your fax handset, y have to set to poll receive r

HOURS OF DARKNESS TODAY Sun sets: 6.17 pm Sun rises: 5.59 em 5.16 am 4.43 pm Full moon March 24 London 6.17 pm to 5.57 em

TOMORROW Sun rises: 5.57 am Sun sets: 6.19 pm Moon sets

5.46 pm London 6.19 pm to 5.54 am Bristol 6.29 pm to 6.04 am Edinburgh 6.33 pm to 6.05 am Manchester 6.29 pm to 6.02 am Penzanca 6.40 pm to 6.16 am

HIGH TIDES

00.50 00.29 00.06 00.04 10.07 00.15 11.08 00.14 11.08 11.08 11.08 11.09 10.00 12.37 18.37 22.35 18.23 17.06 22.30 23.07 16.37 23.20 21.52 17.40 17.25 17.41 King's Lynn 20.47 23.30 17.38 16.30 17.20 18.02 18.15 22.46 22.46 22.16 17.43 14.57 23.12

NEWSPAPERS

FORECAST

from 96.3.

☐ General: England and Wales will be mainly dry with sunny periods, but northern areas will become increasingly cloudy and there may be some patchy rain during the afternoon and evening. Temperatures should be a

little above average generally. Scotland and Northern Ireland will likely in west at first, but more wet and windy weather is expected in most areas by atternoon and evening. Temperaturés near seasonal average.

☐ London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, W & E Mid-lands, E England, Channel Isles, SW England: sunny spells. Wind light, southerly, becoming fresh, south or southwesterly. Max 12C

S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N England, NE England: dry at first but becoming cloudy with

outbreaks of rain later. Wind south or southwest, moderate, becoming fresh

...Page 32

to strong. Max 11C (52F) to strong. Max 11C (52F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, N Ireland: rather cloudy, patchy drizzle or light rain at first; more general rain later. Wind southerly, fresh, becoming strong. Max 8-10C (46-50F).

☐ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: bright at first, but cloudier with rain later. Wind moderate, southerly, becoming fresh ☐ Shetland: rain clearing, but more

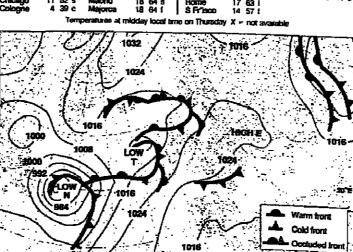
rain later. Wind moderate, south-westerly, becoming fresh, southerly. ☐ Outlook: rain at times, but also some brighter spells. Temperatures

1.5

AROUND BRITAIN

10.0 0.01 50 46 54 52 55 55 55 55 55 56 Emouth Palmouth Falmouth Fishguard Folkestone Glegowy Hastings Hayling L. Herne Bay Hove Huretanto titracombe Isle of Mar Jensey Kinloss Leeds Leeks Lerwick

46 57 52 50 41 ABROAD Corfu critical Confusion Confusion Dubbin Dubbin Faro Confusion Confusion Gibrettar Helsiniki Hong K Immetrok Stambul Jeddah Jo'burg L Angelis Le Tquet Liston Lucanno Lucanno Confusion C Aiacalo Alaratir Alaratir Alaratir Alaratir Amartir Amartir Balanatir 14 57 c 3 37 l 20 68 s 18 64 s 4 0 68 s 20 68 s 20 67 s 16 64 3 c 14 57 l 6 43 c 14 57 s 19 68 l Malta Medico C Manni Medico C Manni Medico C Manni Mitan Montreal Munich N York Narioti Naples Nica Calo Paris Pelding Pertin Pague Reylqueli Rinodes Fino de J Filyedh Boxre S Fr'lson -1 30 sn 5 41 c 23 73 s 21 70 s 17 63 s 23 73 s 13 55 s 1 34 c 18 64 l



Changes to the chart from noon: high E will chift slowly southeast into southern Italy, meanwhite low T with move swiftly east across northern Scotland with similar pressure; low it will move quickly east towards Ireland and fill

the daughter, 44, ten no

hospital tresiment. (AP)

Sunny intervals Cloudy nizzle 🗪 Overcast **P** Rain

ANDON TODAY

Sleet and **Jightning** Snow 13

Temperature (Celsius) Wind speed (mph) & direction conditions CALM

BA 747 to Toronto on 22 May, 10 July, 6 August, 29 August, and 6 September • five nights at Sheraton • Niagara with helicopter • harbour cruise • city tour

Concorde supersonic between Heathrow and New York ● four nights at the Sheraton • tours by coach, yacht and helicopter ● depart on 25 June or 18 July £1,999

BA 747 to New York on any day • four nights at Hilton (inc. Sat.) • Concorde to Heathrow £2,499, or £1,399 with Club Class return, or £1,899 First Class

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Orient-Express to Southampton on 27 May ● five night Oriana cruise to Monte-Carlo via Gibraltar ● tour Riviera ● Concorde supersonic from Nice to Heathrow £1,699 Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June ● three night

Oriana cruise to Norwegian Fjords • jet return £999 Fly to Norway on 11 June • eight night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Fjords and Spitsbergen • Concorde supersonic return £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August • six night Oriana cruise to Tenerile via Praia da Rocha and Casablanca • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,799

Orient-Express to Southampton on 18 June • five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Lisbon and Tangier • city tour • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow from £1,599

Orient-Express to Southampton on 13 July • eleven night QE2 Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Iceland • Concorde return £2,999 Concorde, QE2 and Orient-Express holidays to New York (and Toronto) ● departures every month from £2,899

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INSIDE SECTION

TODAY

Monday O Tuesday ∪ Wednesday T hursday

WORKING WEEK

From oil to media mogul in one slick move **PAGE 31**



BUSINESS

SATURDAY MARCH 22 1997

Graham Searjeant wanders the Norwich way PAGE 33



SPORT

Age before beauty: why skating must get its act together **PAGES 50-56**

THE HIDDEN **ASSETS AT CABLE AND WIRELESS**

PAGE 31

Tesco pays £630m for ABF's Irish business

By Sarah Cunningham

TESCO plans to invest £100 million over the next three years in the Irish supermarkets that it agreed to buy yesterday from Associated British Foods for £630 million. ABF will also receive a £10 million dividend.

The money will be spent on refits. extensions and new stores. Tesco has no intention of renaming the Irish stores and is not planning redundan-

SE to take

fresh look

at Anite as

chief goes

he would not confirm that the

Exchange has reopened its

inquiry, saying: "If they have, that's between us and the

Stock Exchange. I am not

He said that Mr Richards

was leaving because of "an

accumulation of events ...

your contribution (The Times)

was not insignificant". He

said that Mr Richards felt the

concerns about misleading the

market would, rightly or

Mr Richards, still only 39.

was part of a management

team led by Sir Peter Michael

that turned Cray Electronics

into a stock market high-flier

in the early 1990s. Its shares

have never recovered from the

1995 warning, which caused shareholders to lose more

Mr Daly will take over as

acting chief executive until a

fresh documents that show the extent of internal concerns

about the performance of Cray

Communications in late 1994.

Monthly reports prepared in

December and January by the group's finance department conclude: There has to be

extreme doubt over the ability

of the company to achieve

The report covering the first

eight months of Cray's finan-cial year (to December 1994) begins with the statement: "The division traded at a loss

of £3.8 million for the eight

months. The profit is entirely

due to accounting adjust-ments. An identical state-

ment, though with a lower

loss, was made a month

earlier. The report refers to cash continuing to haemorr-

hage out of the division" and

every single company in the

division...struggling on cash." Last month, Mr Richards

told The Times that the reports were produced by negative-

minded accountants. He said

the adjustments comment re-

ferred to the treatment of

property and other costs.

worth around E33 million.

year-end targets."

replacement is appointed. The Times can today reveal

than £200 million.

wrongly, keep resurfacing.

prepared to discuss that."

THE Stock Exchange is be-

lieved to have reopened its

inquiries into Anite Group.

the data communications

company that yesterday parted company with Jon

Richards, its chief executive.

ards could receive about £500,000 in settlement of his

two-year contract, which was

for about £260,000 a year. Alec

Daly, chairman, said that the

settlement was fair and within

the spirit of the Greenbury

of a series of reports in The

Times last month that showed

Anite was aware of serious

problems in its most impor-

tant business for several

months before a shock profits

warning in April 1995. Both Mr Richards and Mr

Daly have insisted that the

company still had a realistic

hope of meeting its profits targets, although internal doc-

uments state that its Cray

Communications subsidiary

was losing money and in

'crisis" by December 1994.

formerly known as Cray Elec-

tronics, last year. Mr Daly has

said that the Exchange made

only "mild" criticisms of its

financial reporting. Yesterday.

BUSINESS

TODAY

Z DE RELIGION

1.6883* (1.6990 5.6990* (5.7125 1.4680* (1.4595 122.85* (123.73

Takyo class Yen 129:35

Brent 15-day (Jun) \$20.00 (\$20.10)

.6890* (5.7125) .4580* (1.4535) 22.85* (123.73) 104.0 (104.4)

The Stock Exchange dropped its first investigation into the company, which was

Mr Richards was the focus

guidelines on executive pay.

It is believed that Mr Rich-

introduced to Ireland within a year. Tesco will become market leader in both Northern Ireland and the Republic, which has lately become a magnet for British retailers. Burtons, Boots and Dixons are among those to have recently opened in Dublin, while north of the border, Saleway is

believed to be in talks with Wellworths, the supermarket chain. Under the deal, which needs European Commission approval, Tesco will buy 75 Quinnsworth and

Crazy Prices supermarkets in the Republic. In the North it is buying 34 stores made up of Stewarts, Crazy Prices, Superdeal, Westside Stores and Bloomfields. It is not buying ABFs Irish textile and clothing retail businesses, Penney's and Primark, but will acquire Wine Barrel, the offlicence chain, and Lifestyle Sport and Leisure, a chain of 47 sports shops. The businesses being acquired had

sales of £1.24 billion last year and

operating profits of about ESS mil-

worth, chairman of Tesco, said operating margins should rise from 4.7 per cent to 6 per cent in four years. Although the deal takes ABF's cash pile to about El.4 billion, Sir Garry Weston, chairman, discounted talk of

million. Lord McLaurin of Kneb-

a bid for Hillsdown Holdings. He did not rule out buying National Starch or Quest, two of the speciality chemicals companies that Unilever has put up for sule, but he said ABF was not

Feargal Quinn, an Irish Senate member and chairman of Superquinn, a small supermarket group, said he had put in a last-minute counterbid for the ABF businesses. He said he had not been aware that they were for sale. Superquinn has concentrated on organic growth, but is now seeking acquisitions.

Tempus, page 32

Charter's takeover agreed by Howden

By Fraser Nelson

CHARTER, the railways and welding group, yesterday end-ed a week of speculation over the future of Howden by announcing an agreed take over that values the industrial fanmaker at £378 million.

The cash and paper offer values Howden's shares at 12812 p apiece - a 54 per cent premium to the price they traded at last week. It comes four days after Howden formally dismissed speculation that it had any bid approach. Jeffrey Herbert, Charter's chief executive, said the com-

pany had been sizing up Howden for months, but took action after the report in The Times last Monday. He said that Charter which has been looking to

make an acquisition since it disposed of its stake in Cape last year — was primarily interested in Howden's industrial fan division. He hinted that it could sell the company's drilling arm, which last October won a contract in China to drill the longest tunnel in the

Charter is offering £124.78 in cash and three of its own shares for every 115 Howden shares. Howden's shares rose 362 p to 128p yesterday - just below the bid offer. Charter's shares rose 60p to 847 p.





Anne Ashworth on gaps in the new mortgage code

What party policy means for your money



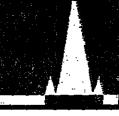
PENSIONS



A reader's struggle for pensions justice

INVESTMENT 2

Norwich Union's summer share bonanza



INVESTMENT 2



Will international trusts survive another century?

British Steel expected to shed another 5,000 jobs

Jon Richards felt the concerns about misleading the market would keep resurfacing

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL yesterday told union leaders of costcutting plans that are expected to lead to a further 5,000 jobs

being lost. The new plans are an acceleration of existing cuts that will see the company shed up to 1,000 jobs a year, and are in response to a decline in revenue because of the strength of sterling. Last month, Sir Brian Moffat, chairman, appraised union leaders of the worsening situation for British Steel

from the strong pound. British Steel, which employs 43,000 in the UK, says that cuts will depend on local negotations at the company's main plants. However, unions have braced themselves for cuts equalling the 5,000 jobs cuts already announced as a result of new and changed working practices.

At the time, Mr Richards and his collegues Roger Hol-land and Jeff Harrison -The sweeping cuts being planned by British Steel are respectively, chairman, and likely to affect management as finance director - held shares well as shopfloor workers at

its main steelworks in Port the main unions involved in Talbot. Llanwern Scunthorpe

Unions are not expected to fight the action unless any of the new redundancies, which will also be implemented over a live-vear span, are made compulsory. British Steel has refused to rule out compulsory redundancies, although both



yesterday's talks with Alan emerged hopeful that job losses will be voluntary.

Bob Elsom, chairman of the joint union committee for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, the GMB general union, and the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, said: "We are concerned about the potential loss of jobs, but, having received assurances from British Steel this morning that any ed, we are confident that there will be no compulsory

redundancies.' A hundred jobs will be lost at Allied Steel and Wire's Cardiff plant, the company announced yesterday. The jobs are being shed because the company has suffered a fall in demand for its steel reinforcing rods as a result of a slump in the European



The locals know it as Surf City.

Ward jailed for two years

By Jon Ashworth

MICHAEL WARD, former chairman and chief executive of European Leisure, has been jailed for two years, after the Court of Appeal ruled that his original sentence was too lenient

Ward, 49, was given community service in 1995 for his part in an illegal share support scheme, but the decision was challenged by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, backed by the Serious

Fraud Office (SFO). Now, Ward has been jailed London close \$352.65 (\$351.25) for two years and disqualified denotes midday trading price

from serving as a director for seven. Jeremy Howarth, 51. Ward's "right-hand man", has also received a harsher sentence. Originally given community service, he has been jailed for 20 months and banned from holding a directorship for five years.

European Leisure's former operations director. George Hendry, 65, has been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years. He was originally given a 12-month conditional discharge. Ward and Howarth were given 48 hours to arrange matters with their families" before surrendering to custody. They were convicted at Southwark Crown Court in February 1995 at the conclusion of a four-and-a-halfmonth trial. Both were given 220 hours' community service. and ordered to pay custs and compensation.

Ward returned to court in late 1995 to face two charges of making misleading statements to the SFO. He was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, and released

about a year ago. Ward, a former director of international corporate finance at SBC Warburg, created European Leisure in 1987, with a view to building a diverse leisure empire. He pursued an aggressive series of takeovers and mergers, culminating in a contested bid for Midsummer Leisure in 1990. He was essentially accused of mounting a share support operation to prop up the European Leisure share price during the bid, sparking memories of the Guinness affair.

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INSIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

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Bid values **Phoenix** at £15.5m

Co-operation Retirement Benefit Fund, the investment holding company, has launched an agreed bid at 23p a share offer to buy the 22.8 per cent of Phoenix Timber that it does not already own.

management changes are expected at Phoenix. Capital Partners, which holds a 7 per cent stake in the company, has already accepted the offer. which values Phoenix at £15.5 million.

NAV rises

Speciality Shops, the property company that recently bought Victoria Place shopping centre in London, yesterday announced a 9.7 per cent increase in its pro forma net asset value to 147p per share.

Pre-tax profits fell 13.3 per cent last year to £786,000 and turnover fell 37.3 per cent to £5.2 million. The total dividend has been increased to 2.5p from 2.4p, with a 1.7p final.

Payout higher

Pemberstone, the property management and investment company, earned pre-tax profits of £2.1 million in 1996, up from £373,000 posted in abbreviated accounts for 1995. Turnover was £9.4 million (£1.4 million). The rise included the £413,000 sale of a stake in a subsidiary. A final dividend of 2p lifts the total to 3p from 0.96p.

TC chief departs with £400,000 settlement

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

coalface.

more delegated authority,

TC Group, which came together from the merger last

year of Takare and Court

Cavendish, continues to suffer

from the contraction of local

authority spending on long-

term care. Occupancy levels in TC's established homes fell

from 94 per cent in 1995 to 91

per cent at the end of Decem-

ber and declined a further 3

per cent over the past three

months. TC Group blamed a

third of the recent decline on a

sharp increase in mortality

rates. The overall occupancy

level in TC Group's homes.

including new homes is 83 per

300 and 400s, to provide more

seats on popular routes and to

The existing BMA jets can

carry an average of only 156

passengers while the new

aircraft have between 189 and

200 seats giving much more

efficient use of scarce airport

take-off and landing slots.

BMA is about to open new

services to Copenhagen, Goth-enburg and Oslo and expects

soon to increase the number of

flights to Spain and Germany.

open new services.

resources at the

TC GROUP, the nursing aging directors. Chai Patel, homes operator, has lost its chief executive, said: "We need managing director and suf-fered a fall in underlying pretax profits from £22.1 million to £18.5 million in the year to December. The company is changing its name and the branding of its services to Care First and yesterday indicated that it would ask shareholders for powers to buy in 5

per cent of its share capital. Hamilton Anstead, a main board director, is leaving the company with compensation totalling £400,000 based on his two-year service contract. The company said the £250,000 annual cost of TC's managing director would be redeployed at the operating level with two regional man-

AIRBUS and Boeing are

locked in battle over a £500

million order for 20 new jets

for British Midland Airways.

A decision on whether to buy the Boeing 737-800, the

Boeing 757 or the new Airbus

A321 will be taken by British Midland at the end of this

month. Both companies have

made their final bids and

Delivery will be spread over

five years, enabling BMA to replace much of its fleet of 737-

technical presentations.



cent, compared with an industry average of 84 per cent. TC Group is raising the dividend by a third to 3.45p a share, payable from earnings before exceptional items of

spent £1.5 million on the merger last year and the tax charge is increased to 121 million, including an exceptional £15.2 million deferred tax charge following the curtailment of the building programme.

Keith Bradshaw, chairman. said the group's priority was to fill beds after the group's decision last year to end its building programme. "We have no expectation that local government spending will increase, regardless of the outcome of the election," he said. In the longer term, the company hopes to expand through purchase of specialist nursing businesses and by moving into home care.

Airbus and Boeing in | Frost forecasts growth fight for £500m order after petrol price war

JAMES FROST, chairman of sold but maintain gross mar-Frost Group, owner of the Save petrol chain, predicted overall growth in the petrol market and an increase in margins after a year in which his company lost 40 per cent of

its volumes and 600 sites. Resisting Esso's Pricewatch campaign left Frost Group with a 31 per cent fall in pretax profit before exceptional items to £10.4 million. Mr Frost said: "The effect of our strategy was to reduce gallons

gin." The price war had reduced competition at a time of growth in petrol sales, with growth per site of 15 per cent for the whole industry.

Mr Frost will spend less time with the company after the appointment of Dean Overton as managing director. The company is to change its name to Save Group. The dividend rises from 7p to 7.1p.

Tempus, page 32

Sentence cut for **Arrows** fraudster

By Jon Ashworth

MUHAMMED NAVIEDE, the financier jailed for fraud over the £100 million collapse of the Arrows trade loans company, has had his nineyear sentence reduced to six years by the Court of Appeal.

The ruling means Naviede, 43, will be eligible for release on parole in about 16 months. He was jailed at the Old Bailey in July 1995 for fraudulent trading, making false statements, and obtaining property and services by deception. He was banned from serving as a director for 12 years.

Arrows collapsed in 1991, owing more than £100 million to 20 banks. Lord Justice Hutchison, Mr Justice McKinnon and Mr Justice Newman quashed two of Naviede's convictions - on charges of obtaining property by deception — but substituted convictions of obtaining ser-

vices by deception.

The decision follows a House of Lords ruling in another case that the offence of obtaining property by decep-tion under the 1968 Theft Act did not apply to transactions in which no actual property changed hands - for instance, payments by cheque or by electronic credit transfer from one bank account to another. The jury in the trial of Abbas Gokal, former head of the Gulf Group, retired to consider its verdict at the conclusion of a six-month trial. The jury was sent home for the weekend. Deliberations resume on Monday.

Banks aim to lift standards

THE British Bankers' Association will announce a new code of practice today in a bid to raise consumer service standards. The code, which will regulate all leading banks and building societies, aims to help customers to find better deals. After the code's implemen-

tation on July 1, holders of obsolete savings accounts that offer uncompetitive rates will be informed of alternatives at least once a year. Customers will also be told when current account rates change

Wace cuts payout as charges lead to loss.

WACE, the troubled printing services company, can dividend yesterday as it reported a slump into the red annual trading profits fell 50 per cent to £11.9 million, which blamed on an expensive move away from traditional pristing to a computerised media service. With exceptional charges E13.9 million, Wace was left with a pre-tax loss of £2 and the company will pay a final dividend of 1.15p on face 5.

This cuts the total payout from 5.85p to 3p a share. Estate per share were 8.4p, down 43 per cent from 14.7p. Tress Grice, chief executive, said he expected an improvement the European businesses this year, but more time would be needed to improve its American operations.

Cliveden rights issue

CLIVEDEN, the hotel group, wants to raise £8 million a rights issue to fund expansion. It is aiming to develop a townhouse hotel in London and to open a sports club at the Cliveden estate in Berkshire. Cliveden is offering one new share for every three existing shares at 75p. Full-year profit rose 56 per cent to £1.7 million last year. Turnover rose 2 third to £8.5 million. Earnings grew 21 per cent to 5.85p. a. share. The final dividend is 1.7p, payable on April 28.

Limelight cuts 100 jobs

MORE than 100 jobs are likely to go at Limelight, the troubled kitchens group, after a sharp fall in trading in the past face months. Steve Cotter, chief executive, said the group want out costs by up to £2.8 million a year. The company, which floated in November, said pro-forma pre-tax profit in the year. In December 31 was £7.84 million against a lass of £1 million. to December 31 was £2.84 million, against a loss of £1 million a year earlier. There is no dividend. It confirmed that group sales in the first three months of this year are down II per cent.

Fortnum's festive cheer

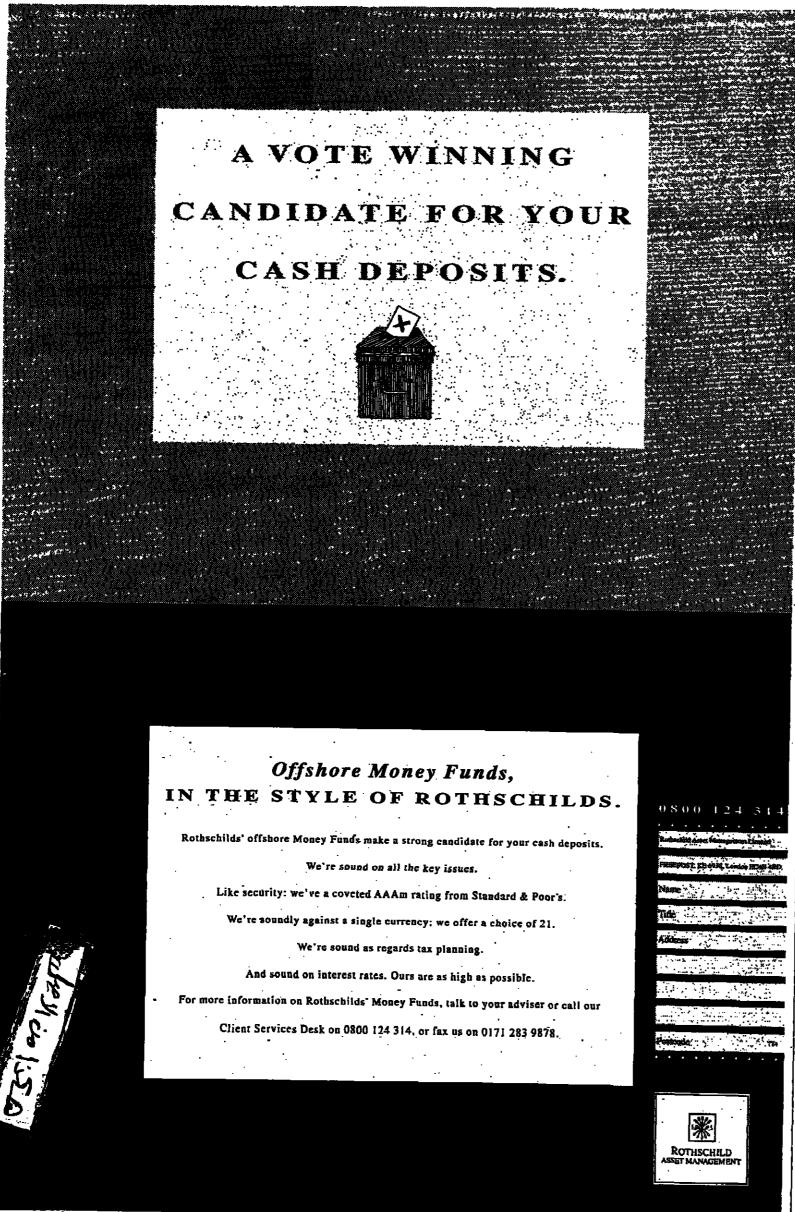
FORTNUM & MASON, the upmarket retailer and branded food company, yesterday said that strong pre-Christmans sales led to a 7 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits. France £2.32 million to £2.48 million. Earnings were unchanged at 17.4p a share, and the interim dividend is held at 4.3p. payable June 30. The company said that second-half profits would be affected by building work to extend the company's flagship Piccadilly store.

CPL Aromas shares fall

SHARES in CPL Aromas, the flavours and aromatic ingredients company, lost more than a third of their value yesterday after the company said that the strong pound and weakness in its ingredients business would see profits for the year to March 31 will be below market expectations. The shares, which peaked at over 500p a year ago, fell from 190p to 120p. CPL said turnover will be at least £2.5 million lower than last year's £28.7 million, when pre-tax profit was £2.9 million.

Rotork advances 15%

ROTORK, the international engineering group, achieved a 15.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £17.7 million last year, reflecting strong worldwide sales. The company, which has operations in Britain, America, Singapore and France, lifted turnover 13.5 per cent to £90.8 million. Basic earnings per share were 7.2 per cent higher at 11.91p. A dividend of 8p, up 48 per cent from last year's 5.4p, will be paid on May 23.





WOOLWICH

REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED

A WORKING WEEK FOR: ROGER LUARD

From oil to media mogul in one slick move

Eric Reguly meets a skilled dealmaker who turned Flextech from a nondescript services company into fast-growing TV programmer

6 The BBC

joint venture

was the

mother of all

TV deals ... 2

Wednesday

Monday And where did he Tuesday O come from? In the 1980s. Roger David Eckford Luard was a Thursday man trying to eke out a struggling businessliving in industries that were marginally

less exciting than watching fungus grow on the side of trees. There was a fuel additives business, a central heating and boilers business and others that make him wince, including one that specialised in making the linings

Today, after one of the more remarkable corporate transformations, Luard, 47, is the chief executive of Flextech, a former oil services company that has become Britain's fastest-growing media group. After BSkyB, the satellite broad-caster, it is the country's largest supplier

of satellite and cable programming.

Earlier this week. Flextech formed a programming joint venture with the BBC that is designed to launch the institution into the commercial arena. The deal. potentially worth more than \$1 billion to Flextech over the life of the joint venture. has earned Luard the begrudging envy of the traditional TV companies, which largely ignored the subscription-TV mar-

ket. Cariton. Granada and their rivals are only now waking up to its potential and are scrambling to enter the race. Luard is somewhat astonished by the achieve-

ment, not only because of its size but because it has given him the sort of stability and status that he thought impossible only a few years ago. A hustler and dealmaker by nature and

inces 15

training, he is not quite used to knowing where his next pay cheque is coming from. "When I first got into business, I would hawk my wifer my dog, my car ~ anything - to get going," he said. "This is the first time I have not been gambling everything I own to make it."

Luard had spent most of his career in shabby offices, negotiating deals from coffee-stained desks and trying to keep sceptical bankers at bay. He now operates from a swish building in Great Portland Street in central London

It has pretty receptionists, glass elevators and meeting rooms with power curtains and dividers. Luard can look outhis eyes bloodshot from endless meetings with the BBC, he arrived in casual trousers and a sweater, leaving the impression that he had not quite made the transition to the world of limos and Hugo Boss suits.

While he may not be as slick as your typical media boss, Luard relishes his role as the TV industry's best-known upstart. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious and have allowed him to penetrate TV's tight-knit social circles with ease. Kelvin MacKenzie, the man behind Live TV's topless darts, and David Montgomery.

the Mirror Group chief executive, are friends. Jilly Cooper, the author who is Luard's Cotswolds neighbour and the best friend of Roly, Luard's wife, said: "When I first met him, he used to make boilers. When success comes as late as this in life, it is especially sweet. Roger is really enjoying himself."

Luard loves the rumour that he is the

model for Rupert, the rake in Riders. Cooper's saucy bestseller. He is not, but Cooper said that she has found him useful as a tutor on the behind-the-scenes workings of the TV world.

Luard was born in London, grew up in Surrey and attended Rugby School. The death of his father, who was a chartered surveyor, destroyed any possibility that the young Luard would be able to drift through school — he never attended university — and ease himself into the profession of his choice. "When my Dad died, I had to go out and work," he said. "I always wanted to be an artist, but I ended up becoming an accountant for Price Waterhouse instead."

The 1970s and early 1980s were a blur of oddball jobs. There were stints at an investment firm, a textiles group, the fuel additives company, and the boiler and suit-lining businesses. In 1986 he landed at Flextech, another unglamorous company in a string of unglamorous companies. "We wanted to

start a new division to offset the volatility of the oil business," Luard said. Television, bizarrely enough, was the answer. Flextech's entrée was provided by Peter Orton, a friend who was then head of Henson International, the TV company launched by the late Jim Henson, the gentus be-

hind The Muppet Show. Orton convinced Luard of the business potential of providing the viewing public with a broad choice of TV channels; at the time, Britain had only four. Together they started HIT Entertainment, a distributor and packager of animation, children's and natural history programming.

Flextech then went on to win some cable franchises and bought 25 per cent of The Children's Channel, now TCC, from British Telecom. In 1992, Flextech ditched its oil services business and went into pure TV mode. "I needed to find a big daddy to help us to keep going," he said. The big daddy turned out to be Adam Singer, head of the international arm of tions Inc (TCI). ca's biggest cable company and one of its biggest programmers. TCI was looking to make a splash in the British TV market and chose Flextech as its vehicle. Luard said: "When I told people that I had a relationship with TCl, they thought I was talking about a bottle of antiseptic. They had no idea what TCI was."

In 1994 TCI acquired a controlling stake in Flextech through the merger of Flextech with the British broadcasting interests of United Artists, then owned by TCI. United Artists' channels included Bravo, UK Gold and UK Living, which



Roger Luard, whose success in television has blossomed after an unpromising beginning: "I would knock on doors and nobody would answer"

remain among the country's most popular pay-TV channels. The deal instantly made Flextech a force in the emerging multichannel" market.

Nonetheless, Flextech, losing money and hampered with a bizarre history and strange pedigree, was dismissed as a curiosity. At that time any of the ITV companies could have done programming deals with Flextech. It appears they underestimated TCI's resolve to duplicate its American success in Britain. "I would knock on their doors and nobody would answer." Luard said.

Any notion that Flextech was a bit player ended last September when the revealed it would use TCI to launch subscription channels. The goal was to create a steady stream of commercial income to subsidise the licence-fee revenue, which is barely enough to keep the BBC alive let alone thriving. Among other things, the BBC's increasingly tight finances have prevented it from renewing sport programming rights, including those to Formula One motor racing.

For Flextech it was a coup. The BBC had also been negotiating with the much larger BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, to launch a family of BBC-branded

subscription channels in Britain. Luard, of course, cannot take all of the credit. If Flextech did not have TCI at its side, the BBC might have chosen BSkyB as its partner. TCI had the competitive advan-



covery Communicaming affiliate in the US. The negotiations to form the much larger BBC-Discovery

the summer. The BBC-Flextech joint venture is already in business. Last month it agreed to sell the broadcast rights to four of the eight channels under development with the BBC to British tage because it could Digital Broadcasting, the digital terrestriprovide the BBC with al TV consortium formed by Carlton,

Granada and BSkyB. The four include One-TV, described as a "visual Radio I for pop music fans", and Horizon, a channel that will draw its programming from the BBC's nature, science and history catalogues, All of the Flextech-BBC channels will be offered to cable and satellite subscribers after their

development is completed in the summer. The BBC joint venture was the mother joint venture are bogged down in the of all deals for Luard, which begs the details; its launch is not expected before question: what next? Luard loves the art of

the deal and he is hounded by speculation that, after a good long rest, he will pack his bags and start all over again. He could afford to do so. He has a million share options, the majority of them granted at 92p. If he exercises them at the current market price of about 800p, which is double their level of 1994, he will pocket a tidy £6 million.

But, as Jilly Cooper noted, Luard is enjoying his success and may not be eager to let it all go, especially now that he has a 212-year-old adopted son, his first child, for the sake of playing the game all over again. "I have an elegant office and a support staff for the first time in my life. said. "I am really enjoying this and am committed to building and expanding

The best reason for Germany's leading jeweller to establish a presence on New Bond Street.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Architect finds right line for temple of learning

corporate building is commissioned and constructed that deserves to be recognised as a work of art, one of enduring value to the community around it. The Cable and Wireless Coliege, opened in Coventry in September 1993 and designed by MacCormac Jamieson Prichard, is one

Conceived as a unique specialist educational centre offering training courses for C&W personnel and for other partner companies within the telecommunications industry, its corporate value is not in doubt. Its architectural value has also been realised; it has already managed to amass more than a mantelpiece's worth of trophies. In 1994, it won Building of the Year from the Royal Fine Art Commission, a silver plaque and bronze plaque award from RIBA. The following Joanna Pitman taps into the delights of the Cable and Wireless College

year it picked up the Concrete Society Award and the Financial Times Architectural Award. And last year it won the national award for soft landscape construction from the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Symonds Award for the best commercial develop-

ment from the Civic Trust. The building looks nothing like a corporate educational institution. None of the grim stained concrete blocks from the penitentiary style of college construction. Nor the colourful plastic jollity so often imposed to lighten (but more likely depress) the look of a corporate pre-school. No. the C&W college is a mature building of advanced functional capacity, high design standards and tranquil beauty. It could from a distance be

mistaken for a Japanese Shinto shrine — some admiring students have come to refer to it as their temple of learning. The first thing you notice are the roofs, which slope and curve in an alturing wave, like breakers rollon to the shore, and which, in a clear reference to East Asjan architecture, arc clad in blue-jade faience

layout is definitely collegiale, with open and covered routes focusing on the central court that has become the hub of the coll-The main teaching wings face each other across this courtyard, focused on one central ocular open around

are planned. With its pool, its cloister-like structure and its deep projecting eaves, the central space retains a won-

derful contemplative feel. Lecture rooms are in a single-storey teaching block at the front of the site looking south over green belt. All of them can be naturally ventilated and are generously lit with indirect natural light. For flexibility, the dividing walls have removable partitions. There is a library, an exhibition room and residential blocks.

Materials are all of a high quality and well detailed. Outside walls are grit-blasted concrete with some poiished concrete blocks coloured green. Interiors are defined by polished handtextured Italian plaster, tinted — tastefully — in muted green or petrol blue.

The grounds too, landby Colvin and scaped Moggridge, have attracted their fair share of admiration. There is a linear pond and lawns that lead to the leisure pavilion, which is set in a hillock that can be reached by a footbridge. There is also a waterfall.

Corporate comfort has been combined with a high level of design artistry, and those students of telecommunications in residence should delight in the chance to learn in such an attractive environment.

As Samantha Hardingham says in England, A Guide to Recent Architecture. The building as a whole has an ethereal quality, particularly from the outside. It is a modern stately home.



GLASHÜTTE ^I/SA

The Lange 1, a worthy representative of the latest collection of famous "A Lange & Sonne" watches, embodies a great Saxon tradition. It was high time to make these hand-crafted masterpieces from the Ore Mountains available in the UK. Now, they are: exclusively at Wempe on New Bond Street in London. The renaissance of the most treasured heritage in fine German horology is reason enough.



135, New Bond Street - London WIY 9FA - tel. 0171/493 22 99



The college's open central space is cloister-like, a place to stand in contemplation



Charlton's market debut falls short of forecast

CHARLTON ATHLETIC, the struggling south London football club, scored an own goal on its stock market debut with the shares trading at a hefty discount Placed on AIM at 80p, the price touched a low of 5612p before ending the session at 63p, a discount of 17p.

It seems the City love affair with football clubs has started to wane. There are now 14 quoted teams compared with just five a year ago. Most have been hoping to cash in on the boom for televised football and the move, eventually, towards pay-per-view.

The fancy ratings boasted by some are now looking a little over the top and brokers are urging investors to be cautious. The bigger clubs. like Manchester United, up 712p at 644p, and Tottenham Hotspur, down '2p at 110p. are seen increasingly as leisure companies earning prof-

its off the pitch, as well as on. Sunderland, a recent newcomer unchanged at 585p yesterday, has fallen sharply this week after having six goals pushed passed it by Chelsea. It is now struggling to maintain its Premiership position. Chelsea Village, which owns the west London side, slipped l¹₂p to 130p.

Charlton is lying just above the relegation zone in division one. But the offering was fully subscribed, with existing shareholders and supporters snapping up 1.3 million shares at 76p. Institutions claimed the remainder of the offering at 80p, valuing the club at a total of £17 million.

Meanwhile, there was an almost audible sigh of relief among investors in the Square Mile as share prices generally overcame another volatile session to end the week on a steady note.

Supported by a partial recovery in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight. the equity market opened on a firm note with a gain of almost 16 points. It saw the expiry of the March series of the FT-SE 100 index futures and options pass off without too much fuss and soon began to rally again some opening gains. But New York's failure to hold on to those gains eventually left the index down 3.3 on the day at 4,254.8. Investors remain worried about the prospect of a rise in interest rates.

The loss on the week was extended to 169.5. Turnover again topped one billion

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

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Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct

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250 5 13 16; 15; 19; 22;

March 21, 1997 Tot: 93013 Call: 44380 Part 48633 FTSE Call: 16253 Part 28180



James Frost, chairman of Frost Group, upbeat and Ip higher

shares, swollen by a large out with a jump of 1712p at number of bed and breakfast

transactions. Tesco firmed 12p to 33912p after announcing plans to pay Associated British Foods £630 million for its Irish food retailing operation. The deal boosts AB Foods cash reserves to £1.5 billion. It also lifted its share price 1412p to 526p. Hillsdown, often mentioned

92312p after the Government gave the go-ahead to the joint £1.5 billion bid from American Electric Power and Public Services Colorado. The deal remains subject to regulatory assurances.

PizzaExpress was playing down takeover speculation as the price surged 57p to yet another high of 76712p. David

A busy week is in store for biotech companies. The high-flying Shield Diagnostics, up 30p at 650p, is due on Monday to give a presentation for its AFT heart disease test after recent worries over US trials. Scotia Holdings, down 27½p at 380p, also reports, after having seen its price tumble from a peak of 735p.

as a possible bid target for AB Foods, rose 412p to 18812p.

There was a brief suspension in shares of Howden and Charter before it was confirmed that Charter was making an agreed offer for the engineer. Howden ended the day 3612p higher at 128p, matching the terms from Charter. The deal gives Howden a price tag of £378 million. Charter closed 60p

dearer at 84712p.
Yorkshire Electricity stood

COMMODITES

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PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

IPE FUTURES (GNI LLd)

BRENT (6.00pm)

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Page, chief executive, says the company intends to remain independent and laughed off suggestions of a bid from Grand Metropolitan, down 412p at 490p.

Incheape rose 13p to 25512p ahead of figures next week expected to show the benefits of measures taken by the new

BAT Industries touched 46612p before rebounding to shrugging off the decision of

3eath: 2370.0-2371.0 693.00-693.50

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Cast: 2421.5-2422.5 643.00-694.00 1277.0-1278.0 5900.0-5910.0

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THE BOTTE	
Current	Week's
ICi	-45½p Broker cuts profit forecast +44½p Charter bids £378 million
Sunderland585p	-67%p Relegation candidate
Dorling Kindersley,271p	-59pCasualty of strong pound
Flexiech635p Limelight Group 941/2p	-137p Chief executive sells shares -76½p Sales skump
BT456p Stagecoach679c	+16%p Upbeat presentations

Liggett Group to break ranks with the other tobacco companies and admit that smoking caused cancer and was addictive. Imperial Tobacco slipped 2p to 41912p.

Another big line of stock passing through the market left Flextech 44p down at 035p. stretching the loss on the week to 137p. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, found a home for a line of 9.32 million shares at 62412p.

Frost Group, the indepen-dent petrol retailer headed by James Frost, chairman, firmed lp to 125p despite reporting a drop in profits from Ell.1 million to £10.4 million last year. The group cheered brokers with an upbeat statement on current trading and plans to change

its name to Save.

Tyzack Precision fell op to 7212p after plunging into the red at the halfway stage with losses of £612,000. But the group remains confident and has a cash surplus of Ell million for acquisitions.

Active Imaging slumped 42p to 4612p after TVX withdrew its offer of \$11.35 a share. CPL Aromas is the latest company to blame its misfortunes on the strenth of sterling. Shares in the food producer plunged 70p to 120p after a profits warning.

There was steadier performance among the rail franchise operators with Prism Rail accelerating 55p to 350p. GB Railways rising 23p to 15212p in sympathy, and Stagecoach clawing back some of this week's losses with a rise of 712p at 679p.

☐ GILT-EDGED: Losses among bond prices during the past few days were halted as the London market took advantage of firmer European bonds. Investors shrugged off persistent worries about highinterest rates as longerdated issues posted gains of up

The June series of the long gilt finished £14 better at £109316 in moderate turnover.Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on £932 to close at £103132, while at the shorter put on E1s to finish at £971516. NEW YORK: Sell-offs in Eastman Kodak and Philip Morris shares kept the Dow Jones industrial average lower in morning trading, though the overall market was higher. By midday the Dow was 21.15 points lower at 6,799.13.

Long Gilt

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RECENT ISSUES

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Birmingham City	431:	- 2
Cambridge Mini Res	134	- '
Charlton Athletic	63	
Core Group	298	- 3
Dobbies Garden	260	
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Howle	31	
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London Bridge Sftw	2651:	+ 4
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MAJOR CHANGES

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AB Food	
Saleway	
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Rentokil Intl	
FALLS:	
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Boots Burmah Reckitt & Colm ICI	
Boots Burmah Reckitt & Colm	

Closing Prices Page 49

sion is the prize and the hope

crude oil price.

Back in Dallas, Esso's Edited by Carl Mortished

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Cort: \$350.50-351.00		M: \$352.80
Kragerrand: \$331.75-354.75 (	(219.25-221. <b>2</b> 5)	
Platinum: \$378.00 (£235,95)	Silver: \$5.15 (£3.215)	Palladieur: \$148.50 (£92.70)

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Mist Rates for March	2) Range	Close	l month	3 mont
insterdam	3.0226-3.0465	3.0059-3.0382	-1•Dr	21-74p
Brussels	55,390-55,880	55,647-55,752	JS-10pt	42-35p
Сорепћацеп	10.240-10.311	10.285-10.293	10°-	1,-42
Oublin	LD161-1.0218	1.0189-1.0207	4-011	15-90
Frankfurt	2.6654-2.7050	2,6988-2,7005	100	21-13-0
Lisbon	270_32-272.00	271.32-271.60	والماليا	ور ا
Madrid	227.81-229.65	229.12 229.38	9-2pr	30-12p
Milan	2684.1-2709.6	2702.2-2705.7	24-40ds	63-850
Montreal	2.1892-2.2141	2211422132	0.59-0.54pr	1.20-1.11p
New York	1,5892-1,6041	1,6034-1,6041	0.85-0.65pt	0.265-0.235p
Oslo	10.703-10.758	10.713-10.721	101	Ç.p
Na.da	0.0560-0.1320	0 1113-0 1160	21_2Lee	e diam

### TEMPUS

### Greener pastures

FESC(1) paid a lot for Associated British Food's Irish supermarkets but the deal will bring more benefit to Tesco shareholders than

to investors in ABF. ABF's cash pile will rise to almost £1.5 billion. Garry Weston. ABFs chairman, shrugs off mutterings about low returns, so there is every chance he will bank the cash for that rainy day. Speculation about a bid for Hillsdown is wide of the mark; ABFs husiness is not packaged foods but raw materials and its focus is overseas rather than

the domestic. More likely to interest ABF is the Unilever specialty chemicals business, but a deal may depend on whether Unilever is prepared to break it up and offer ABF the starch business. Without an acquisition, the outlook for ABF investors looks dull. The huge family stake

seems to rule out the prospect of share buy ins

or special dividends. Still, the sale of the Irish supermarket chain makes sense for ABF. With Safeway likely to move into the Irish market, competition will intensify and Tesco, a veteran of retail price wars, is better able to fight the market share

battle than ABF. Tesco admits that its last Irish venture (it bought the Three Guys chain in the late seventies) was a shambles. The venture flopped after Tesco foolishly renamed the chain, only to skulk back home. Once bitten, Tesco is keeping the trading names, but it will inject its marketing expertise. Faced with low growth at home, Tesco needs alternatives. Ireland's population is increasing, with GDP rising at twice the rate in Britain. Irish soil could prove fertile.

TC Group

SHRINKING demand, reduced investment and slimmer margins. You can hardly fault TC Group for taking powers to buy back its shares. The residential care market is under the cosh of local authority spending cuts and TC Group shares reflect the marker's perception that this is a nil growth business. Valued at 113p, the book value of TC's assets is 143p. Viewed on a per bed basis. the discrepancy is more striking: the market prices the company at £22,000 per bed but it costs TC at least £25,000 to build each bed. never mind the cost of buy-

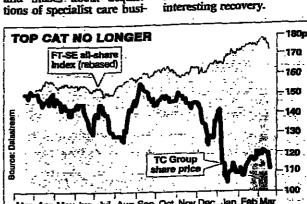
ing the fand. On that basis, TC looks a terrific bargain, but there are still doubts hanging over the company. Occupancy is too low and the company still has more beds coming on to

the market as the old building programme is unwound. These will be filled, probably at a faster rate, as competi-tors cease building and sites are converted into housing.

The worry is whether TC Group has the right strategy. The company is convinced there is growth in this sector and muses about acquisi-

to prove it can safely manage expansion and investors are probably better off with the yield from a tightening sup-ply of care homes. TC will throw off a lot of cash in the coming year or two as construction spending tails off and occupancy increases. In safe hands, this could be an

nesses. However, TC has yet.



#### Charter/Howden CHARTER chose its victim

well. On the face of it, Howden was a sitting target. A series of deals have put the company on the map as world leader in industrial fans, yet this distinction has never been flattered with profits to match. Despite a strong balance sheet and good order book, Howden's shares languished at a 40 per cent discount to the marke

Adding to Howden's difficulties were memories of management failures, notorious among them a Scandinavian tunnelling project that left a large hole in Howden's profit and loss account long after the company had

changed course. Charter has not overpaid. The bid price gives Howden investors a huge uplift but Charter is only paying about 15 times forecasts of Howden's earnings to April 1998. The industrial fan divi-

will be stubborn or that Charter will struggle to sell the high-risk tunnelling business. Nevertheless, Charter has found its third leg and the prize could be a better share rating. Long saddled with the conglomerate tag. Charter should soon graduate to fully fledged engineer.

is that Charter will sprinkle

some magic over Howden's

The risk is that margins

lacklustre margins.

#### Frost Group

IF you believe James Frost, his Save petrol retailing chain will coin it this year. The battle of the behemoths has killed off some 1,500 independent retailers, leaving more of the market for the survivors. Frost reckons that Esso is unlikely to continue ils Pricewatch campaign at the same level of intensity. having regained market share, and margins could well improve with a lower

WALLSTREET

the estimated £200 million cost of Pricewatch so the multinational will be under pressure to put the numbers back into the black. Key to this will be Esso's ability to launch a new forecourt promotion. Alone among the majors, it lacks a loyalty gimmick. largely due to the continuing dispute with its dealers over Tiger tokens. Frost should regain most of its lost volume and if margins hold, earnings could rise 25 per cent in the current year, putting the shares on a multiple of less than 8 times earnings. 3 The risks are clear for all to

bosses will not be amused by

see. Restructuring will continue but the chances are that the page will be less frantic and continued attrition of inas well as the majors. The wild card is a merger: Frost has sold his business more than once before and if there is a strong recovery he might well be tempted again.

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Australia 1_2738-1_274 Austria 11.87-11.8 Belgium (Coru) 34.82-34.8:	8
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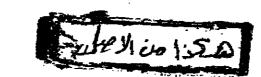
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BTR	8.700	Pearson	2.60
BT	18.200	PowerGen	1.80
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Gen Elec	5.600	Std Chard	4,70
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Grand Met	2.400	Tate & Lyle	1,10
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# WEEKEND MONFY

**LEARNING CURVE 35** 

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### THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Anne Ashworth, Caroline Merrell and Sara McConnell ask the main parties to explain their policies

# Pensions and tax top agenda

economy has not figured large in the early election skirmishes between the parties. But issues such as tax and pensions remain at the top of the agenda. We canvassed the three main parties to find out their personal finance policies. discovering that new Labour is now enemy of the Pep and that the Liberal Democrats believe that we need a special ministry for savings.

#### Pensions.

These used to be an electoral yawn. But the Conservatives' promise two weeks ago of a radical overhaul of the whole system of state and private pension provision has set the pace for a heated debate on the whole future of retirement provision. All three leading political parties have now acknowledged the once-unpal-atable truth that the state pension system set up 50 years ago is creaking at the seams. Conservatives propose to

sweep all state pension contributions, including the once sacred basic state pension, into personal pensions run by life insurance companies. These payments will be invested, along with top-up contributions from individuals, to produce personal pension funds on retirement.

Under the Tory scheme, £9 week from employees' national insurance contributions will be rebated into their personal pension. This is intended to provide a basic state bly run by unions or other af-

pension. If contributions grow faster than expected, individuals will get bigger basic pen-sions. If insurers fail to perform to a minimum level. the State will provide an un-

derpinning guarantee.
On top of this, employees will have a compulsory 5 per cent of their earnings between set lower and upper limits rebated into their private pensions instead of being paid into the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps). The Tories have not dared to

make if compulsory to top up the basic and earnings-related pension with further contributions, although anyone wanting a good pension and not in an employer's scheme will have to invest substantial extra sums. But the pensions industry is dismayed at the Tories' plans to fund the cost of the proposed changes by making coming generations pay contributions from taxed income and receive pensions tax-free on retirement. Currently pensions are taked but contributions get generous tax relief, widely considered one of the main incen-

**III** Labour has long been exploring options for more private pension provision, but it is reluctant to commit itself to detail before an election. But it is wary of giving too large a role to life assurance companies, which it believes have forfeited the public's trust through the pensions mis-selling scandal, Instea yours a system of second-tier "stakeholder pensions", possifinity groups, supplementing the basic state pension. Workers would pay the 4.8 per cent they currently pay to Serps into the stakeholder pension plus any top-up contributions they make for themselves. Serps would almost certainly be run down. This proposal does not differ greatly from the Tories' plans. Like the Tories. Labour would insist that companies administering and investing second-tier pensions must be approved.

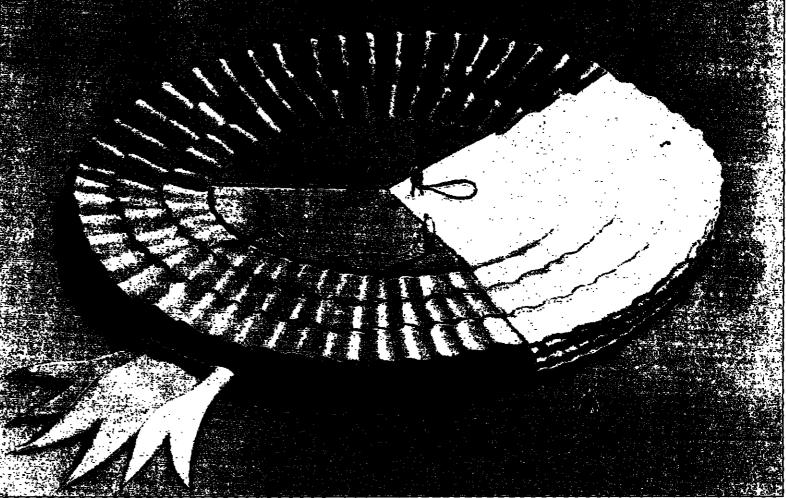
But unlike the Tories, Labour will hold back from investing the basic state pension. Instead, it will continue to use the national insurance contributions of today's workers to pay today's pensioners. It is also considering a "flexible de-cade" of retirement, allowing people to retire between 60 and 70. The Tories have raised the state retirement age for all women over 40 to 65.

ted this week that their plans to be paid into private pensions run by insurance companies.

III Liberal Democrats admit-

for pensions did not differ fundamentally from Labour's. Like Labour they would keep the basic state pension separate from second-tier invested pensions and uprate it in line with prices. They would also phase out Serps and make it compulsory for a 5 per cent earnings related contribution

But Liberal Democrats plan changes to income support to make sure the sioners claim their due. They would introduce a means-tested pensioner benefit which



to those who qualify. Tax-free lump sums taken on retirement will be limited to £75,000, affecting those on salaries of £50,000 or more. Em-

The headline rate of income tax has a high profile, and, at the last election, the level of national insurance contribu-

#### Polls and the stock market, page 41

ployers would be compelled to tions became a live issue personal pension or other scheme for the employee's benefit if there was no employ-

contribute 5 per cent of an employee's gross salary into a will not increase the basic rate or the higher rate of tax for the next term. These two taxes currently stand at 24 per cent, fall-

ty has stayed silent on whether it would leave personal allowances untouched, or raise national insurance.

Labour is not in favour of scrapping capital gains tax. Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "We oppose abolition of capital gains tax, and want to modify the system." There is some suggestion that different rates of the tax might be introduced for short long-term gains, with the aim

being made to close present loopholes in the system.

Conservatives, on the other hand, are committed to reducing the basic rate of tax to 20 per cent. Since coming to power in 1979, they have systematically cut tax rates. In 1979, the basic rate of tax was 33 per cent, while the top rate of tax on earnings was 83 per cent. promising to reduce capital gains tax and inheritance tax. The party is also committed to the cause of tax simplification. ■ Liberal Democrats want to add ip to the basic rate of income tax, and they want to expand personal allowances by £200 to take a further 500,000 out of the tax base. They would not change capital gains or in-

**WEEKEND MONEY** is edited by Anne Ashworth

## Parties push protection

The safety of our savings is another election is-sue, especially as all parties want us to make more private provision for our old age. The effectiveness of the costly panopoly of investor protection has also exercised the parties' strategists. The Conservatives are not

in favour of wholesale structural reform of financial regulation, as it would be expensive. However, the party believes that the existing framework should undergo "cost benefit analysis" to reduce the level of bureaucracy.

By contrast, Labour proposes sweeping reform of investor protection and immediate action to resolve the personal pension mis-seiling scandal. Mike O'Brien, Shadow

Economic Secretary, emphas-ised that it was not his ambition to establish a UK equivalent of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). the US investor protection body. Instead, Labour would combine all the current investor protection bodies in an enlarged version of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the existing head of the regulation pyramid. Labour's aim would be to end the

bureaucracy, confusion and high costs that bedevil the present structure. This supreme body would take over all the current functions of the pack of watchdogs that now preside over the financial services industry. including the Personal Invest-

ment Authority (PIA), respon-

sible for financial advisers and insurance companies. It is envisaged that the merging of the bodies would

give the SIB more draconian

disciplinary power and allow

it to act with greater speed. Labour also promises to act to ensure that the 558,000 people wrongly advised to take out personal pensions that were poor value receive redress. The 25 companies responsible for mis-sell-

ing would be given individual deadlines for the payment of compensation to their customers. If they failed to meet these deadlines, which would elapse before the end of this year, they would be publicly disciplined. If the Liberal Democrats

swiftly re-establish a ministry of consumer affairs, which would include responsibility for all aspects of personal finance. The first task of this department would be to review the current framework of investor protection, including the effectiveness of the existing investor watchdogs. The Liberal Democrats

would like to look more closely into how the structure now in place works before proposing its immediate abolition. However, the party does believe that the system may have become outmoded in view of the growing number of individuals now making private pension provision.

ANNE ASHWORTH

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### Norwich way is no precedent

Torwich Union's great vote on April 18 looks much more of a foregone conclusion than the one on May 1. Some 1.1 million people have guaranteed life policies that do not participate in profits of the investment fund and have little interest in the change of status. But they have a vote. Norwich has offered them nearly £400 worth of shares regardless, because the board needs those votes to win a threequarters majority for conversion. Votes are worth something.
Norwich's 1.8 million with-profit poli-

cyholders will receive more free shares. on the more logical ground that they own the life fund. Unlike building society investors, they are not simply trading future benefits of mutuality for cash now. Norwich's capital will have to be serviced with dividends, but there is an offsetting advantage. One purpose of the floration is to raise

Norwich's motor, health and general insurance businesses from the life fund. By making the fund more flexible, that should help Norwich to become more competitive in its investment returns. This argument does not apply to pure mutual life offices. So the Norwich vote should not set a precedent.

With up to 29 million initial shareholders. Norwich will be far behind Halifax but looks a more intriguing investment. Many with-profit policy-holders will have a holding big enough to be worth holding on to. Most nonprofit policyholders will want to cash in. Unlike at some building societies, institutional investors can come in from



the start. So there need not be ah unseemly (if profitable) stampede of fund managers bidding to buy out small investors as soon as the shares are quoted. The accompanying share issue is the worrying part of the package. It will be made by techniques now favoured by

finance directors and international investment banks, which turn private investors into zombies. In a conventional offer, issuers or vendors set a price that City underwriters are prepared to guarantee and then invite the public to subscribe for shares. Under a bookbuilding approach, the issuer nominates a price range, which may be only 10 per cent top to bettom. but can be 50 per cent. Its adviser, in this case Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, invites bids from fund managers to arrive at a sale price that will cover the issue

comfortably. Private investors accept the

price arrived at without knowing what it is when they send their cheques. They

have to buy a pig for perhaps a tarkey)

in a poke. To compensate, members will be offered a discount in the Norwich case, as small investors were in recent privatisations. The implication is that small investors cannot go wrong, even though they cannot exercise their judgment, because they are buying cheaper than the professionals. There is no guarantee. Professionals

can get it wrong as easily as amateurs. BZW's sale of British Energy quickly left private investors nursing an 11 per cent loss, in spite of a 5 per cent discount, although the patient now sit on a handsome profit. Professionals can always err. In the Norwich case, institutions could bid low, knowing they could quickly pick up £1 billion of stock from policyholders. They might bid high. reckoning to pay a premium at the start rather than scramble for stock later.

ny risk for members of Norwich Union, who will already have free shares, is small. This will not always be the case. One palliative is to offer "blind" bidders a much bigger discount than the initial 5 per cent on British Energy. But that brings other distortions. There is strong pressure on the City, from Parliament and competition regulators as well as treasurers, to abandon underwriting, along with rights issues et at, in favour of seemingly cheaper techniques that leave

small investors in the cold. Markets still need small investors to function effectively. Millions more will join the markets this year. They will not stay, let alone roam wider, if they are treated as an afterthought.

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Sara McConnell on an uphill fight for justice

# Slow road to redress for aggrieved teacher

Richard Glasspoole, a teacher with 18 years' service, was advised to transfer his pension fund into a Scottish Amicable personal pension. His teacher's pension was index-linked and provided generous widow's benefits. Scottish Amicable's scheme. like other personal pensions.

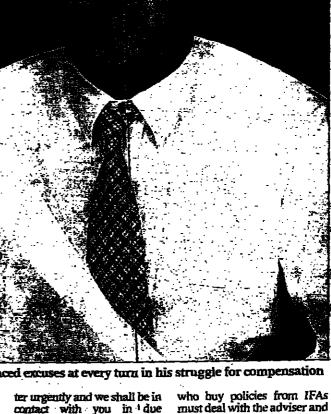
offered no such benefits His fight for compensation is being blocked at every turn with excuses from the firm of in-dependent financial advisers which sold him the policy, and Scottish Amicable. His experience is symptomatic of those

Last week Joe Palmer, chairman of the Personal Investment Authority, and Colette Bowe, the PIA's chief executive, were given a masting by the Treasury Parliamentary Select Committee for their slow and inept handling of the industry-wide review of pen-sion mis-selling under PIA supervision. Mr Palmer was forced to admit that he did not know when the review would be completed. More than half a million people, including Mr Glasspoole, were wrongly advised to transfer, but only a handful have been compensated. It has since emerged that the number of people dying before getting redress outnum-bers those who have received

compensation by three to one. Even before Mr Glasspoole signed the transfer forms, he was having second thoughts. When he expressed doubts, he was wrongly told he could cancel the personal pension.

According to calculations earlier this year from the Teachers Pension Agency, if he had left his frozen pension where it was, it would have provided 49-year-old Mr Glasspoole with an annual pension of £4,963 and a taxfree lump sum of £14,589. Mr Glasspoole has worked out from Scottish Amicable's latest valuation of his fund that after taking the same lump sum as he would get from the teacher's pension, he would have to buy an annuity giving him a good an annual pension.

Mr Glasspoole is too young to have been automatically included in the PIA's review, which makes a priority of



Richard Glasspoole has faced excuses at every turn in his struggle for compensation

cases of the retired and those about to retire. But in 1995, he demanded a review of the file by his IFA as he has a right to under the terms of the review.

According to Mr Glasspoole, the adviser rold him the personal pension would grow at a guaranteed rate of 10 per cent. In fact personal pensions depend on the fortunes of the stock market and have no guarantees. The adviser made no mention of the risks of personal pensions compared with the teacher's pension where benefits are safeguarded by the employer and

For the past two years, Mr Glasspoole has periodically received letters from the firm's compliance office promising: "We are addressing this mat-

contact with you in due course." To date, no review has started:

in September 1995, the firm said it could not carry out the review because it could not get access to a transfer analysis system" to calculate compensation. It continued: "Certain insurance companies including Scottish Amicable have taken a corporate decision to not (sic) carry out these analysis (sic). Soutish Amicable denies this and says systems have been in place since 1993.

refuses to get involved in resolving Mr Glasspoole's

must deal with the adviser and not the insurance company. Companies refuse to accept responsibility for accepting business which later turns out to be wrong advice. Scottish Amicable says: "The IFA is going through the review process so obviously we can't

After being contacted by The Times, Scottish Amicable agreed to "contact the adviser and make it aware of new correspondence". This includes the letter from the IFA blaming provide a transfer analysis system. The insurer had seen case or those of any others. It none of the letters from the IFA cites industry demarcation and was unaware of this one rules which say that people?

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### Necessity is the mother of invention

Y urious thing, coincidence. On March 13, Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, gave warning that insurance companies failing to compensate customers wrongly sold personal pensions would be appropriated from the lumping to the lump excluded from the lucrative business opportunities arising from the pro-

posed state pensions reforms.
On March 20. Legal & General, once branded a "serial pensions misseller" said it had a solution to the compensation crisis. L&G believes it would be easier to restore lost pen-sion benefits to its customers on retirement, rather than doing it now. Any attempt to bring new thinking

to bear on the personal pensions affair must be welcome. But it seems strange that, after years of delay, one of the principal culprits has suddenly seen a way out of the mess.

The developments may be connect ed with L&G's decision to start offering pensions by telephone, the



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

new growth area where Virgin Direct, a group untainted by the personal pension débacle, has made such a splash. A large unpaid compensation bill might prove an inconvenience when marketing no-frills pensions to the cynical young who are the target market for such schemes.

But L&G is also all too aware that both the Conservatives and Labour now have its industry under close surveillance. It is a shame that the displeasure of politicians counts for more than the misery of the 18,000

people persuaded to leave the warmth of a company scheme for the chill of an L&G pension. However, these individuals should now raise their voices against the L&G initiative saying that they want their cases settled now. L&G should not be

Code of silence In 1938 Noël Coward described the owners of the stately homes of England as "mortgaged to the hilt".

permitted to buy time for itself.

Subsequently this has become the sorry state of millions of commoners. Until today, however, there has been no code governing how mortgages should be sold. Banks and building societies were not responsible for ensuring that borrowers chose loans suitable to their needs

Under the terms of the code's draft version, published a year ago, lenders were still not obliged to give advice, a point criticised by Weekend Money. Fortunately, this omission has been put right, although it is odd to allow lenders to provide three different levels of advice, further complicating the already fearsome task of choosing a mortgage (see

page 36).
The code is also voluntary another shortcoming. This means that those who already deal fairly with their customers will become even more circumspect, while the rest persist in bad practice.



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Personal touch: Kareem Khouri, of Killik & Co, unravels the mysteries of the markets with the children of Year Six at Kingsley Junior School

### **Budding brokers**

pounds is the problem we would all like to have. But such questions have passed beyond adult daydreams and into the classroom. The Year Six maths group at Kingsley Junior in Croydon, Surry, has entered a competition for local schools in which pupils vie to make the best return on a mythical £1

Sarah Mills, one of the class. asked Weekend Money to find them a stock market expert. We sent Kareem Khouri of Killik & Co. the private-client specialist broker, to visit the school to explain how the stock markets work and to put the case for investing in shares.

Mr Khouri's visit to Kinsgley Junior School followed a session with NatWest which had preached the virtues of the savings account. Mr Khouri, 25, was determined to convey the message that shares are a worthwhile investment. He said: "Children only find the stock market

EUSIS

vestor

lous

boring because they are not taught about it. In fact it's just the sort of thing which appeals to them, and I reckon there will be no problems. Remember that it's a game, with winners and losers."

The moment he began to tell the class about investing their imaginary fortune, silence fell. As he moved from the history of the Stock Exchange and the laws of supply and demand to more technical matters, the children began to sit ut

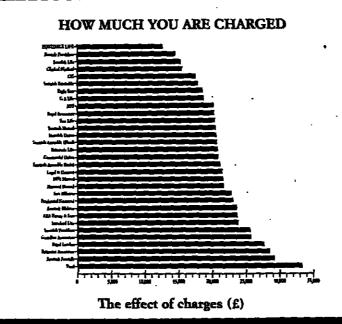
He explained at length how stock market indices are compiled and how share prices rise and fall, referring to The Times share prices page. He brought out a graph of sample shares, showing how £1 million could have shrunk to E350,000 in one share or grown to £1,650,000 in another over a year. They found this fascinating. Even more in-triguing was the idea of invest-

ing in football club shares. Some questions were surprisingly sophisticated. One pupil said: The people from put money in a bank and now you say it's better in the stock market. How do we know which is right?" Mr Khouri then explained the relationship between risk and return.

fter two hours of his market talk, many of the children had announced their decision to seek stockbroking careers when they grew up. Kenny Arnold. exciting and you make lots of money. I bet it's fun when companies go bust and things." Helen Hunt, also II, was equally keen for a City career. "Before today I wanted to be a doctor, but now I think it would be good to help people put their money in the right place and get them lots more." The children are now deciding on their stockpicking strategy and we will report Kingsley Junior's progress in the competition.

NATHAN YATES

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enders will be forced for the first time to accept some responsibility for the mortgage recommendations they make to borrowers, under a revised code of practice on mortgage selling to be implemented in July.

Centralised lenders, who sold some of the riskiest loans in the 1980s boom and exposed borrowers to large debts in the recession, will also have to sign up to a compulsory arbitration scheme. Borrowers taking loans from centralised lenders previously had no access to an independent complaints procedure. But mortgage intermediaries, in-

But mortgage intermediaries, including insurance salesmen, estate agents, housebuilders, solicitors and accountants, will not be expected to sign up to the code until spring 1998, although they arrange half of all new mortgages. The Council of Mortgage Lenders, which is responsible for the code, also admits it has no powers to force any lender to sign up. It said: "We can't ultimately twist lenders' arms." The code is voluntary and it is up to lenders to choose whether to be bound by its provisions.

bound by its provisions.

The CML was forced to rewrite the first draft of the code after it came under fierce attack from the media and consumer groups. Objections centred on the code's failure to require lenders to be responsible for their own mortgage advice or information. Adrian Coles, then directorgeneral of the CML, said such a



The Hays Code laid down moral rules for Hollywood. The new mortgage code gives guidelines for mortgage advice

requirement would "go against the principle of customers taking responsibility for their own actions". Currently sales of mortgages are not covered by existing legislation. Sales of investments taken out to repay mortgage debts, including endowment policies, pensions and personal equity plans, are covered by the

Financial Services Act. Loans under £15,000 are covered by the Consumer Credit Act.

But there is no existing legislation governing sales of mortgages, although the range of fixed, capped and discount rates and other gimmicks such as cashbacks is frequently confusing to borrowers and draconi-

an penalties for early withdrawal not fully explained. The housing market recovery is also resulting in the reappearance of riskier 100 per cent mortgages and non-status loans where borrowers "self certificate" their income. Such loans contributed to negative equity, arrears and repossessions during the recession.

be brought within the Financial Services Act but the CML is resisting this, saying its proposed code will be more flexible. The code covers Choosing a mortgage. Lenders will offer three levels of service advice on different types of loan. information on loans without advice. and information about a single mortgage. In a significant change to the previous draft, lenders will have to confirm details of the loan in writing, giving borrowers time to back out. Previously, borrowers were expected to sign to say they had received and understood the information, effectively removing any future responsibility from lenders. Explaining mortgage terms. This will include repayments, penalties, compulsory insurance and other costs including upfront fees. The consequences of not making repayments. Borrowers will be told they will be liable for repayments and mortgage arrears until their home is repossessed and sold. They will not be covered by mortgage indemnity insurance, which they will have had to take out if their loan was for more than 75 per cent of the property's value. This insurance covers the lender not the borrower. Complaints procedure. Mortgage complaints are currently dealt with by the Building Society or Banking Ombudsman. They will be joined by an independent arbitrator.

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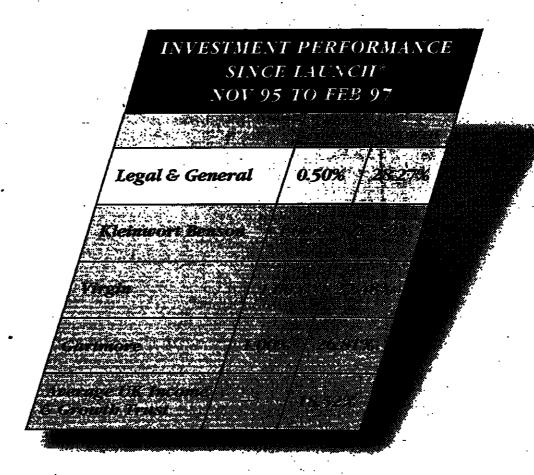
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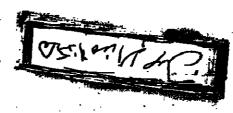
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# Norwich Union's £3bn giveaway

Gavin Lumsden

explains the

the state of the s

MANCE

details of the

latest free shares offer

orwich Union has finally told its 29 mil-lion qualifying members how many free shares it will give them in return for their backing of its proposed flotation plans in June. It needs a 75 per cent "yes" vote from members for the flotation to go ahead. Along with the circular detailing their individual share allocation, members will have received a postal voting form which should be returned by II am on April 17. Alternatively, you can attend the EGM being held the next day at the London Arena.

To qualify for free shares, which will be worth about £3 billion, you have to be either a non-profit holder of term assurance or annuity policies or a with-profits member with savings and pensions policies. NU has not included its 4.1 million holders of household and medical insurance.

The insurer has deemed that 1.1 million non-profit members will get a fixed allocation of 150 shares. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, NU's adviser, estimates the share price would have been between 220p and 265p had the flotation taken place at the end of February. This gives a potential top value of about £400, although if stock markets move sharply in either direction before June the share price could end up

substantially different. However, it is the 1.8 million with-profit policy holders that Norwich Union is rewarding most. They get a fixed alloca-tion of 300 shares, worth up to £800 on Kleinwort's figures, plus a variable allocation depending on the value and length the policy has been held. This will double the amount of shares many members will receive and could leave more than 120,000 with more than 1,200 shares apiece.



Solid foundations: Norwich Cathedral, the company's symbol

If your policy lapses or you die before the EGM Norwich Union will pay a 3 per cent

Holders of single-premium policies under five years will not get the full variable allocathat regular premium policy holders will receive. NU says it wants to reward longerterm customers more than those who have recently paid a large single premium.

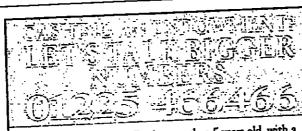
The reason with-profit holders get more shares is because, like the members of converting building societies, they are the real owners of Norwich Union until it demutualises. In future Norwich Union plc will take up to one ninth of the money that goes to with-profit policies as bonuses - the extra shares are a form of compensation for this change, although NU says flotation will not affect bonuses adversely.

Qualifying members will

limit on its share handout to enable the trustees of large policies, such as pension funds, to distribute the shares among its members. If you are a trustee of a pension scheme you should have received a booklet explaining the options open to you. Not all pension schemes allow shares to be held directly under Revenue rules. But NU has arranged a six-day period in which the shares can be sold and cash distribute among scheme

fter a recent ruling by the Revenue, there is a 42-day period in which to transfer your free NU shares into a Pep. NU will be launching its own single-company Pep. Into this you can put an unlimited number of free shares plus up to £3,000 of rights issue shares. NU will release details later on how to transfer shares to another Pep

Trustees should bear in mind that they cannot Pep shares on behalf of beneficiaries such as children. It has been widely publicised that only the first named person on joint policies, such as endowment mortgages, will get the free shares. NU says there is no solution to this and it has affected men and women equally. But even if the first named gives the partner some shares, they cannot be trans-



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also be able to buy more shares in a £1.75 billion rights

issue which will occur in May,

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and the Personal Investment Anthority Member of AUTIF. On the internet as Caroline Merrell and Sara McConnell on society conversions

# Double dates SOCIETY and the taxman

any people with the Bristol & West Build-ing Section 2 lost out after its takeover because of information about top-up dates. Among those who feel they have been misled is Christopher Garratt, a Hertfordshire reader. He claims he has lost out on £250 because of a circular sent our by Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the B&W chairman.

The society is currently in the process of being taken over by the Bank of Ireland. The vote to decide on whether the takeover will go ahead takes place next month. To qualify for the cash payout, savers must have had an account with the society since December 31, 1994, and must have topped up their accounts to £100 by the close of business on April 14, 1996.

However, according to documentation received by Mr Garratt from Lord Armstrong, the vital day for topping up was April 15. The documentation said: "Two-year investing memhers with an account balance of £100 or more on April 15, 1996. will receive at least £500 in cash." Mr Jarratt then received a letter on February 5, stating that the top-up date was in fact April 14. He said: "I immediately queried this by phone and was assured that 14 should read 15 and wrote to John Burke [B&W chief executive] to inform him in writing."
He added: "I was extremely

annoyed to receive on February 26, 1997, a reply from Helen Gale [B&W operations officer] stating that the correct date was April 14." Mr Garratt, and many others, topped up accounts on April 15. which excluded him from the minimum payout of £500. He will, however, get £250 worth of B&W preference shares. B&W says the documentation made it clear that the April 15 deadline meant by the beginning of that date, but Mr Garratt said: Please get Lord Armstrong to tell John Burke and Helen Gale that 'on April 15' means, in plain English, up to close of business on April 15 and not what his information office may later choose to pretend."

The B&W has also antagonised another member, Martin Rand, who found that borrowing members will only be entitied to £250 worth of preference Topping mad: Christopher Garratt says "on April 15" means by close of business that day nvestors with the former Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society are being

shares. He said: "This is roughly one quarter of the offer to other societies converting this year, and is due to the fact that under the regulations fewer borrowers have to be persuaded to vote than savers. This is cynical and unfair. Many institutions are waiting to buy societies the size of B&W. Borrowers should vote against ... and await an offer that gives it a proper valuation."

Savers with other societies in the process of converting are angry about the way cash bonuses have been allocated. Among them is Mr Jeff Van den Broek from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. His daughter had less than El00 in her account on November 25, 1994, excluding her from the shares, worth on average £1,200 per qualifying member. Last year, she went to Australia for a year - so decided to deposit £5,000 with the society. She found that topping up the account entitled her to vote but she was excluded

The Halifax said that this was the way it had chosen to societies are treating savers in wrongly told by the Inland Revenue that they owe capital gains tax on bonuses they received after the society's takeover by Lloyds Bank nearly two

The Special Commissioner of Income Tax ruled last month that bonuses from deposit accounts should be free of CGT and share account holders should be able to reduce or eliminate CGT bills by indexing the gain. But some local tax offices are still demanding payment of CGT if bonuses push taxpayers over the £6,000 CGT exemption.

John Lavender, a Weekend Money reader in Brighton, paid more than £2,000 in CGT in the 1995-96 tax year after his £8,640 bonus from the C&G pushed him over the limit. But when he wrote to the Revenue after the Commissioner's ruling, his tax office told him: "It is true there was a change of view in respect to chargeability to capital gains a threshold should lodge an app-tax made by the Cheltenham & call for a refund, which should Building Society.

and did not apply to payments on takeovers such as the Cheltenham & Gloucester/Lloyds Bank in 1995".

Neil Denniss, of solicitors Clark Whitehill, which acted for C&G investors in last month's case, said the tax office has confused two quite separate and unrelated rulings.

He said: The tax office has looked up a ruling which came out about a year ago on mortgage cashbacks." Accord-ing to Mr Denniss, other tax offices are making similar mistakes. Several investors received demands for CGT payments last December for the 1995-96 tax year, in which they received the bonuses.

The Revenue has until the end of this month to appeal against the Special Commissioner's ruling. But until and unless it makes a successful appeal, investors should not have to pay CGT on bonuses. Anyone who has received a demand because their bonus has carried them over the CGT eal for a refund, which should whe returned with interest cal-

the investment traist in 1868 to give the investor of moderate

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# Don't get locked in a Pep

Caroline Merrell with a timely

warning for windfall beneficiaries

illions of customers of the four building societies floating on the stock market this year should be wary of taking out the personal equity plans (Peps) offered by the societies as a tax-free shelter for their shares. It has been disclosed this week that if savers and borrowers opt to put their shares into an ordinary Pep offered by the converting society, they will be forced to put the rest of their annual £6,000 allowance in another Pep offered by the society. Building society Peps do not figure in best buy lists prepared by Pep analysts.

Killik & Co, the private client broker, warned building society members: "It is important to remember that an individual can only invest with one Pep plan manager in each tax year." This week, the Alliance & Leicester revealed the Peps it would be offering to the 2.4 million members who will receive free shares in the society next month. The A&L is offering both a growth Pep based on the top 350 companies in the UK index and a self-select Pep. You can put your 250 A&L shares into either plan.

If savers opt for the growth Pep, those who have not used up any of their allowances for this tax year would have to invest the full annual £6,000 with the society. A self-select Pep will allow savers to put investments from other fund managers in the Pep. The A&L.

imum allowable in this type of scheme is £3,000 pa. If the society had chosen to do so, savers could have been able to put a further £6,000 with the Pep manager of their choice. Other societies going through the process of floration, such as the Halifax, are planning to offer savers the opportunity of putting their shares in a single-company Pep.

Those Alliance & Leicester borrowers and savers who qualify for the free shares will in the next seven days receive a shareholders pack containing information about the flotation. The share entitlement form must be returned by April 11, to ensure that the free shares are sent out promptly. The float is expected to go

ahead on April 21, when the A&L will issue 582 million shares. The society claims that it wants to keep as many of its former members as shareholders as possible. Its board believes the society has good prospects for growth. Last year, the A&L made pre-tax profits of £306 million. It has 5.5 million customers, 344 branches, 19,000 post office outlets, telephone banking, and a postal savings opera-

Girobank, aims to grow organically and through a costcutting exercise. The Alliance & Leicester is not entirely dependent on the mortgage market for its profits. More than a third of its profits come from other sources such as opted not to offer savers a commercial and personal single-company Pep. The max-banking. Peter White, Alliance also be helped by the state of



Savers don't want their cash locked away any more than a cat wants six months in the slammer

& Leicester group chief executive, said: "We have a clear strategy for growth during the year ahead, building on our successful diversification and we will continue our commitment to developing long-term profitable relationships with our customers." Rob Thomas. UBS building societies analyst, said: 'The shares are a good hold. For a couple of reasons. There will be a tremendous shortage of the stock. The tracking funds will have to hold Alliance & Leicester

shares and they are 15 per cent

of the market. The shares will

the housing market; despite the society's diversification, it is still reasonably dependent on the housing market, where there is real recovery. The margins will continue to be good." Mr Thomas added: The election is not really an issue. It is difficult to see any big problems. Labour may increase the regulation of mortages but this should not be a problem. They should be more than happy to comply."

Those who choose to keep their A&L shares can opt to keep them in a nominee account or hold the share certifi-

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# Act fast to keep CGT at bay

time is running out if you want to shelter your investment gains from . the taxman. This year, the end of the tax year (April 5) falls on a Saturday, which means that bed-and-breakfasting deals - the most common ruse to avoid capital gains tax - have to be started by 3pm on Thursday, April 3 at the latest.

The idea behind bed and breakfasting is to sell shares one day and buy them back again the next to keep your capital gains for the year to less than £6,300. Beyond this limit, gains are subject to 40

By selling stocks that have done well Although stockbrokers should sell the shares at the end of the day and buy first thing the next morning there is always a risk that the market will move, which could incur extra expense. Time has been made even more

precious this year with the introduction of Crest, the computer trading system linking brokers to the Stock Exchange. Traditionally, brokers were able to wrap the buy and sell deals in one automatic transaction. Crest does not allow them to do this and you may be required to hand over your share certificates and complete

a transaction form for both deals.

Brokers will advise you on how best to exploit bed and breakfasting, but they charge a proportion of the value of the stamp duty on the value of the repurchase. For further information on your local stockbroker contact the Association

of Private Client and Investment Managers (Apcims) on 0171 247 7080. Advice can be useful because the charges can outweigh the savings. Many brokers offer reduced fees on execution-only deals. For a list of these brokers contact Moneyfacts by fax on 0336 400245 (calls cost 45p cheap rate, 50p at other times) or telephone 01692 500765.

If you hold a unit trust outside a Pep you could also be liable to CGT. Many fund managers, such as Lazards, Norwich Union, Schroders, Fidelity Investments and Barclays Unicorn, are discounting their normal charges by up per cent. However, they are so charging a 5 per cent spread between the buying and selling of the units.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

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Adam Jones looks at a big-hitting trust Pep

# Treg triumphs in trust top ten table

locusing on trusts with a large public following, we look at Touche Remnant's European Growth Trust.

fter a failed bid for an ailing rival last year. Henderson Investors' A last year. Henderson investors
TR European Growth (Treg) fund is now attracting attention for better reasons. Treg. valued at about £259 million last week, has seen its share price increase from 107p to 170p in the past year, making it the higgest high-performing fund in the Pep-able investment trust sector (see table).

The rise more than offsets the £938,000 cost - borne by shareholders, not Henderson - of an unsuccessful £500 million bid for the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit), a fund whose dismal performance made it a target for about a dozen rivals.

By contrast, Treg's performance, measured from its debut in September 1990, beaten the benchmark index, FT/S&P Europe (excluding UK), consistently since 1994. Stephen Peak, Treg's manager from day one, admits the first couple of years were not impressive. In the middle of the launch period, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. The trust was subsequently "marking time", he says. Then gearing (the borrowings of an investment trust) increased significantly and performance improved, though it still trades at a 1.8 per cent discount to net

Scandinavia. Treg works on a bottom up" basis, that is, deciding to invest more on the merits of individual companies than on sector trends. The general conditions in Nordic countries in the early Nineties have been attractive, especially for pickers of small

ne of the big earners has been

companies like Treg.

Mr Peak says the devaluation of the Swedish krona in 1992 provided many opportunities to find value in underresearched small companies. At the end of June 1995, a third of the portfolio was

in Sweden. That figure has decreased with profit-taking and was less than 20 per cent last week.

Kalmar Industries, a forklift truck firm which formed the biggest holding in June 1996, has been usurped by a Norwegian leather manufacturer and a Spanish restaurant company.

Mr Peak describes TelePizza as a Spanish version of PizzaExpress. Treg has 3.9 per cent of its portfolio invested. He says: "Spain hasn't featured very largely in our portfolio." Sol Melia, a hotel management company, is also

helping to put that right, accounting for 2.1 per cent of Treg's holdings last week.
The normal limit for the size of any one investment is 5 per cent of the trust's net sets, although it has touched 8 per cent. Mr Peak says the fund's policy on unquoted companies is "tough". He says it is not allowed to invest more than 15 per cent in unquoteds, while the largest exposure so far has been about 11 per cent, including 8 per cent in a company

preparing for flotation.

#### TOP TEN UNIT TRUST PEP FUNDS

und .	Fund Size £m	. 1 <b>Year</b>	3 Years	5 Years	Sector
1 Jupiter Income	389.69	3634.04	5243.67	10275.67	UK Eqty Incme
P. Hill Samuel UK Emerging Co's	227.31	3627.08	4273.18	10100.93	UK Smilr Co's
Jupiter European	78.51	3807.51	5589.52	9169.33	Europ
Old Mutual European	173.02	3580.33	4324.38	9115.46	Europ
BWD UK Smaller Co's	9.27	3859.18	4426.63	8948.31	UK Smilr Co'
Jupiter UK Growth	79.21	3585.44	5205.08	8800.03	UK Growt
Invesco European Growth	104.71	3659.17	5009.56	8737.32	Europ
Thornton UK Smaller Companies	94.68	3651.67	4020.85	8648.77	UK Smilr Co'
Henderson European Value	174.25	3465.69	4412.65	8301.62	Europe
) Henderson European Value ) Fidelity Recovery	137.33	3432.16	3953.02	- 8293.07	UK Growti

Tabular information supplied by Moneyfacts

#### TOP TEN INVESTMENT TRUST PEP FUNDS

Cio	Close-to-close, Gross Income Reinvested at Pay Date. Closing prices as at February 28, 1997						
Fu	nd	Fund Size £m	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Sector	
1	Invesco Eng & Intl	119.83	3760.30	5598.25	17136.04	Smilr Co's	
2	Foreign & Colonial Enterprise	133.01	4761.68	5985.45	14517.92	Venture & Develop Cap	
3	TR European Growth	249.15	4622.32 -	6118.22	12215.87	Continental Europe	
4	Dunedin Enterprise	63.57	4423.57	6327.65	11531.03	Venture & Develop Cap	
5	Henderson Strata	84.97	3516.47	. : 5199.87	9512.57 .	Smilr Co's	
6	Finsbury Trust	18.72	3781.97	4550.21	8971.84	UK General	
7	Gartmore European	42.64	3617.85	4410.44	8387.04	Continental Europe	
8	Fidelity Euro Values	141.89	3629.85	4357.45	8193.66	Continental Europe	
9	Mercury Keyston	128.30	3504.85	4676.69	8082.99	UK General	
10	Morgan Grenfell Equity Income	65.31	3469.36	4138.39	7983.43	UK Income Growth	

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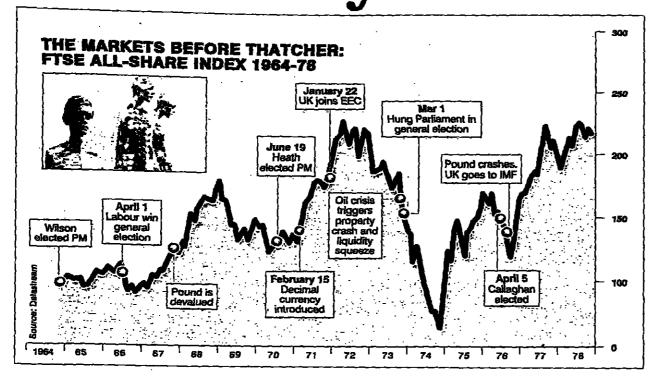


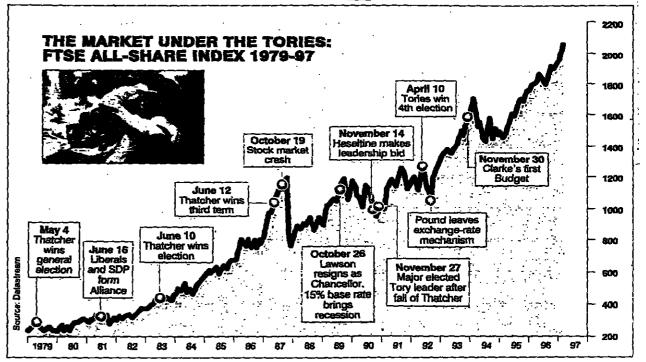
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# Economy feels full force of politics





ver the past 30 years, the UK stock market has veered from the extreme troughs caused by the oil price crisis in 1974 to the extreme peaks that accompanied deregulation of the stock market in 1987.

When Harold Wilson was re-elected as Prime Minister with a 110-seat majority in 1966, base rates were 6 per cent, income tax rates were around 38 per cent and there were 13 French francs and \$2.79 to

Despite the overwhelming endorsement of the country, the Labour Government spent the next four years attempting to curb the rising tide of industria disorder and union power. At the end of 1967 the pound was devalued to \$2.40 and bank base rates were raised to 8 per cent. Inflation was also a big problem. At the beginning of 1968 the Government brought in a series of drastic cuts in expenditure and attempted to produce a deflationary Budget. Despite economic problems, it looked certain that Labour would win the election again in 1970. The shock Conservative win by Edward Heath, with a majority of just 43 seats,

was greeted favourably by the markets. However, the following four years were marked by tremendous economic upheaval. Heath's Chancellor, Tony Barber, made a dash for growth by releasing vast quantities of credit into the economy. This immediately proved to be a trigger for an increase in the inflation rate - house prices doubled and wage settlements hit 9 per cent. In 1973 the oil price crises struck - Heath attempted to freeze wages and prices, which provoked even more antagonism and another strike. Industry was put on a three-day week and the All-share index collapsed to 156. An election was called, and Wilson ended up back in No 10.

Government spending immediately began to soar, inflation reached 27 per cent and the pound crashed. Wilson resigned and was replaced by James Callaghan, whose first action was to call in the IMF for \$3.9 billion of standby credit. By the middle of 1978 the Government began to look precarious and industrial and economic crisis continued it was the "Winter of Discontent".

On May 4, 1979, Margaret Thatcher was elected Prime Minister. She immed-

iately introduced a set of austere measures which drove the economy into a deep depression. Base rates stood at 17 per cent, while inflation reached 20 per cent. Your pound bought \$2.32 or 9.82 francs, and more than 7 per cent of the working

population was unemployed. Tighter monetary policy was not popuar and the Tories looked unlikely to be voted in again. However, Mrs Thatcher was saved by a military skirmish in a distant country. Victory in the Falklands in 1982 ensured that the Conservatives won by a landslide in 1983. With a huge majority, they were able to press ahead with radical privatisation programmes, restructuring of the economy and a breakdown of union power.

Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, kicked

off the new term of office with a £500 million out in government spending, inflation had now fallen to 5.2 per cent and base rates were at 9 per cent. The economy was still in a deep recession.

The Government sold off British Gas, TSB, British Aerospace, British Steel and British Telecom in quick succession. Deregulation of the Stock Exchange - Big Bang - bought millions of new investors to the stock market. Unfortunately, in October 1987 the market fell 10 per cent in just one day. The fall precipitated another recession, with falls in house prices and rises in interest rates. In 1989 rates peaked at 15 per cent and Lawson resigned. followed shortly by Mrs Thatcher.

John Major's Government has continued to press for low inflation and low interest rates. Inflation has fallen from 5.1 per cent in 1990, to around 3 per cent

What of the future? Both parties are committed to keeping down inflation and interest rates. Both also want to encourage share ownership as a method of saving. For instance, Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is unequivocal about the future for personal equity plans (Peps) — the savings vehicle introduced by Lord Lawson ten years ago. He said: "We would ask the public to beware of advisers saying buy now while stocks last. We support Peps and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas).

The Conservative Party wants Peps and Tessas to continue to thrive. The Liberal Democrats would modify both schemes.

# Holiday season throws up currency Visa teaser

Travellers planning to buy foreign currency with a Lloyds, Barclays or TSB Visa debit card this Easter have two unedifying choices. Either they go to their own banks, which are notoffering the most competitive exchange rates, or they go elsewhere and get a better rate handling charge of 1.5 per cent on top of foreign currency

By contrast, customers of Midland NatWest and First Direct, who have Switch debit cards, will not have to pay extra for using their cards to buy currency if they choose not to go to their own bank.

A A POLICIE

One Weekend Money reader who is a Lloyds customer. wanted to buy £500 of Portu-guese escudos. But she was not satisfied with Lloyds's exchange rate, which was 263 escudos to the pound at the time. Lloyds also levies a commission of 2 per cent, with a minimum payment of £3. On £500, the commission would work out at £10. American Express was not

only offering a better rate of 267 escudos to the pound, but it also charges a flat-rate commission of £2. However, American Express explained that Lloyds would levy a value of the exchanged funds if she used her Lloyds Visa debit card. This would work out at £7.50 on £500, making the American Express deal much less attractive.

The only way to avoid the Lloyds charge and still get the benefit of the American Express deal was to pay by cash or cheque. American Express would not accept a cheque for more than £100 as this was the maximum guaranteed by the Lloyds card.

Banks say they levy the charge because they count such transactions as cash advances. The system is set up

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in such a way that every player in the transactional charge, including the bank issuing the card, the bank and Visa, which runs the processing network.

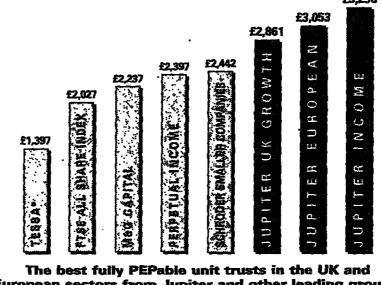
Barclays says: "We are trying to work with Visa towards sidered more like a product, like paying for goods in a shop with a debit card."

Lloyds confirms there are no charges for buying currency at Lloyds or TSB, now part of Lloyds with a Lloyds or TSB card. Customers of one bank will not be charged for buying foreign currency at the other.

have Switch debit cards and do not have to pay for the privilege of buying foreign curren-cy at another bank, says using Switch saved the bank paperwork and customers time.

SARA MCCONNELL

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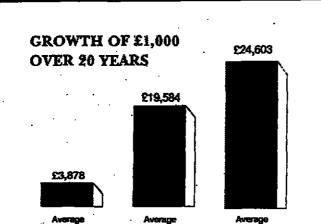
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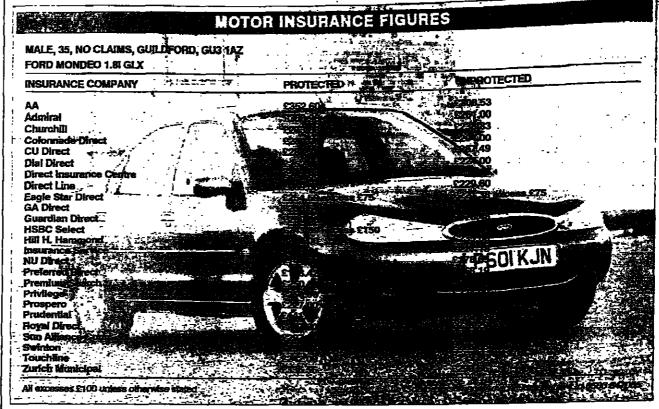
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Marianne Curphey on a direct insurer's debut

# Hastings may find the beach crowded



The motor insurance market may be overcrowded and competitive but there are still investors willing to join the fray. This week a Japanese company was the latest to set up a direct operation in the hope of breaking even within three years with a book of 250,000

Chiyoda, based in Tokyo, has launched Hastings Direct into a marketplace already crowded with more than 50 other direct insurers battling for market share and critical mass. But the industry is currently plagued by falling premium rates and rising claims and some of the biggest names in general insurance in the UK have admitted they are finding the experience painful. Analysts have questioned whether there is room for another telephone insurer in å saturated market.

AA Insurance Services has already predicted that smaller direct insurers will merge or be taken over this year because many of them are having to write business at a loss in order to attract new customers. Composite insurers say they are hoping for modest rises but are unsure whether new rates will stick.

Hastings Direct is based in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, and officially began trading on Wednesday. The project has the blessing of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Hiroaki Fujii, the Japanese Ambassador, who believe the new company could help to regenerate an area struggling with rising

write £75 million of business and have 250,000 policyholders by the end of the decade. It expects to make a small profit on 65,000 customers this year.

The move is likely to increase competition and drive motor premiums further downwards at a time when insurers are desperate to put prices up. However, Jerry Kendall, managing director of Hastings Direct, said: "We believe the motor market will grow from 16 million to 20 million by 2000 and that the proportion of people buying direct insurance will shift from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the total market. This is the right time to enter the market. Rates are showing signs of moving upwards and there is potential for growth in private motor provision."

Next month insurers will start to pass on the increase in insurance premium tax to their customers. The increase, introduced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in last November's Budget, applies from April and means that insurance premium tax will more than double from 2 per cent to 4.5 per cent. The increase means a driver with a £340 policy will pay an extra £13.40 on renewal of his amium, before any other costs are

Rebecca Hadley, of AA Insurance Services, said most insurers were likely to add the extra tax to premiums rather than try to absorb the cost themselves. This is unemployment. Hastings Direct aims to currently extremely thin, claims are they are comparing prices."

rising, and competition in the motor

Ms Hadley said that although insurers are doing their best to raise the rates they charge motorists, the actual price paid is still going down. She said: "We use a panel of 20 insurers and if a customer receives a renewal notice where the price has been increased, he will shop around for a better deal. Insurers are finding that instead of turning every four telephone calls into a sale, they are only achieving sales every six calls on average. Some of the smaller insurers, particularly those that have entered the direct market and have yet to achieve critical mass, cannot afford to lose market share."

ne believes that although the big. well-capitalised companies with more than 500,000 customers on their books will be able to ride out the storm, there will be mergers and acquisitions among the smaller ones which cannot survive in such tough market

The market will continue to be extremely volatile. Some of the larger insurers may decide to put up prices and be sanguine about the loss of business which will result. But the smaller insurers cannot be so choosy, and ners may find they are choosing between a well-known name and a datively unknown nev

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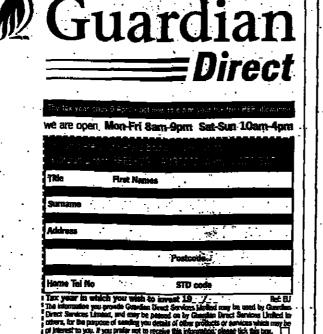
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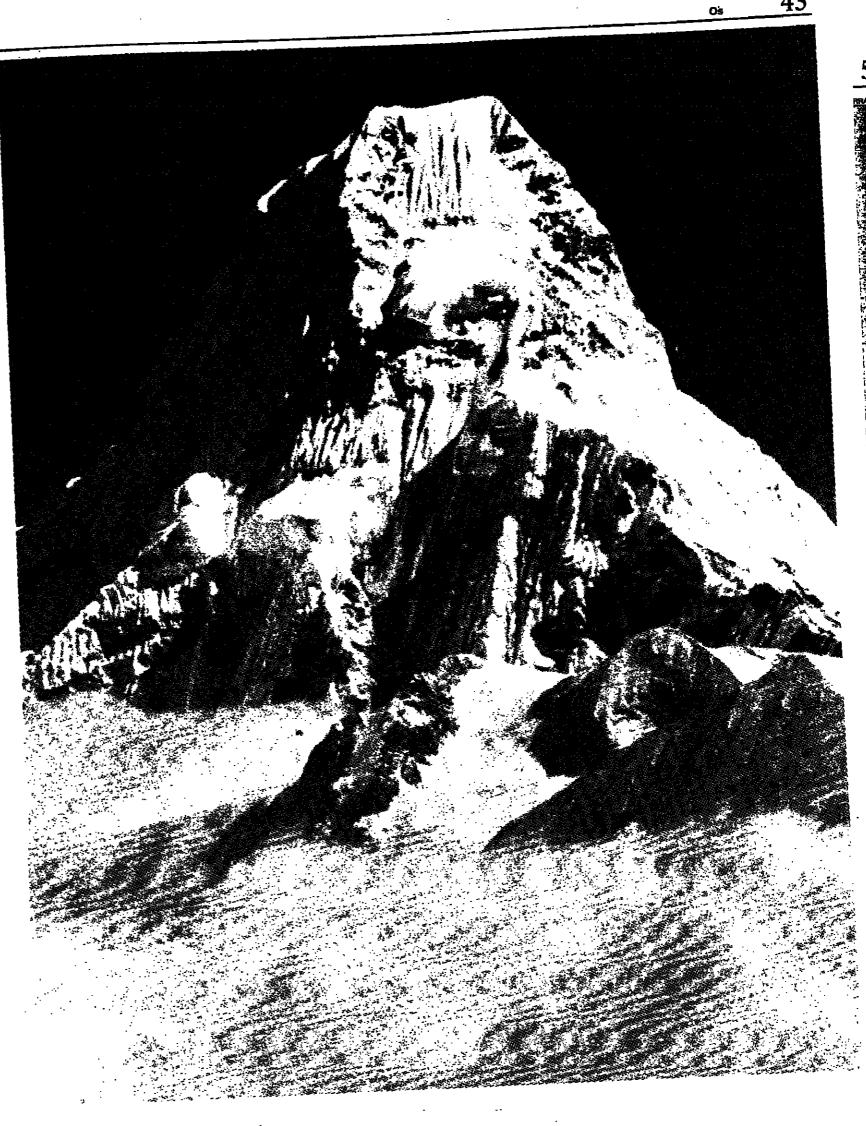
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The M&G Corporate Bond

Gavin Lumsden on the future of international trusts

# The top hats take a holiday abroad

trusts are the great-grandparents of the savings industry, dating back to the last century. In an early example of a corporate mission statement the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust was launched in 1868 with the aim of providing "investors of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalists in diminishing the risk of foreign and colonial stocks hy spreading the investment over a number of stocks".

Today, private investors need for international diversification remains as strong as ever and the sector commands a massive £18 billion of assets. But there are fears that the trusts are running out of steam and may not live to see the new millennium.

Despite the laudability of

their original intentions, the 45 trusts that followed Foreign & Colonial never really kept out the traditional City investors, the 'top hat brigade'. In the last century the excellent returns the trusts achieved in the then emerging US markets proved too attractive to the City institutions.

However, the predominance of the institutions is a problem. The capitalists have found other ways of gaining overseas exposure. Although they still own 40-70 per cent of the shares in international investment trusts, they are long-term sellers of them. This has blighted prices, giving shares an undeserved 15 per cent discount to net asset value.

An indication of their attitude was shown last week when the British Coal Board pension fund, managed by Goldman Sachs, pulled its massive 85 per cent stake in the British Investment Trust, forcing Edinburgh Fund Managers to propose turning the rump into a unit trust.

With BIT biting the dust, this week's announcement that Michael Hart, F&C's venerable manager, was retiring and handing the reins to his longstanding number two, Jeremy Tigue, seemed almost symbolic. Like many trusts in the sector. Foreign & Colonial has had a horrid time in the past year as a rampant sterling has cut a swath through its overseas returns. Was it time for the rest of the sector to shuffle off to the elephants' graveyard or face extinction from corporate hunters?

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North: 0113 239 1941 Call today, fines always open. capital trust has more than doubled a £1,000 lump sum to £2.159. while international general funds (those that combine capital

and income growth) have returned £2,029. Since 1987 these figures

Not at all, say the sector's cent higher than pension

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£2.676 and respectively. This £3.158 makes them ideal for pensions funding as most have ultra-low annual management fees of 0.3 to 0.5 per cent. According to BZW Securities. the investment arm of Barclays Bank, international trusts invest in similar assets to UK pension funds - about 50 per cent in UK equities — but generate superior annual returns: 15.4 per cent for international general funds, 1.3 per

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Porcian & Colonial Invented

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"to give the investor of moderate

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also means that many of the James de Sausmarez, retail managing director of Hendersons Investors, says: "International investment trusts are

ideal for first-time investors, and ideal as core holdings in portfolios." However. Andrew Bell, head of

investment trust research at BZW. says international trusts need rejuvenating with a clearer sense of purpose. Private investors are naturally suspicious of unclear objecwould disappear if trusts adopted benchmarks so that investors understood what they were buying. "Some of the funds go for income, some for growth, some are closet index trackers while others are more buccaneering in their search for returns. All these approaches are fine but should be made clearer to

Fortunately, there are trusts already doing this. BZW has awarded five stars to international trusts with clear benchmarks, good track records and sufficient resources for growth. For savers looking for long-term, cautious investments including the UK it recommends Brunner, Scottish Mortgage, Bankers, Electric & General and Witan. Apart from Bankers, these are all fully Pepable.

Brunner is still 30 per cent owned by the family which set it up in the 1920s, but managed by Kleinwort Benson. Over five years its total return to investors has been 131.2 per cent, nearly 30 per cent better than its benchmark. Scottish Mortgage, managed by Bail-lie Gifford, is more biased to capital growth but has a similar performance.

The last three are all managed by Henderson Investors but take different approaches: Bankers, established by seven bankers in 1888, has successfully beaten the FT-SE allshare and grown dividends every year, while Electric & General focuses on capital growth and Witan combines growth and income.

Alliance, which takes a quasi-tracking approach, gets a good four-star rating, but with shares priced at £22 each investors may want to make use of its Pep and savings scheme. Alliance is introducing a self invested personal pension later this year. For non-UK funds, Kleinwort Overseas and Fleming Overseas are an option. Higher-risk good performers are British Empire Securities and RIT Capital Partners, which focuses on international unquoted companies.

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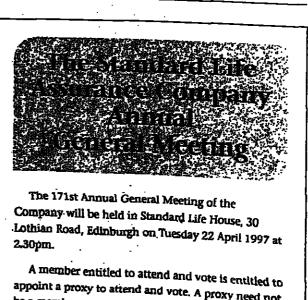
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#### Helen Pridham on the relative risks of investments on offer

# The windfall options

INVESTORS who have been locked into building societies such as the Halifax and the Woolwich, waiting for the end of demutualisation, are at last regaining their freedom.

Although you must maintain membership of your society until conversion actually takes place in order to qualify for shares, a minimal deposit will usually suffice if you can

find a better home for most avour savings elsewhere.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, says that around 15 per cent to 20 per cent of savings with the constitution of the constitu verting societies are likely to be removed within a few months. Abbey National esti-mates £10 billion will move in search of better rates.

With so much money at stake, a war of words has broken out between mutual building societies and their converting rivals. This week Bradford & Bingley announced comprehensive increases in its savings rates as part of a doubling of members' benefits to £100 million this year. John Wrigglesworth, the society's marketing director, branded the converters as "mutants" saying: "If they try to follow us down the path of offering better products they will alienate their new City masters. If they push profits up to please them they will lose customers - they really are

in a very difficult position."
Halifax and Alliance & Leicester dismissed this, while Northern Rock's executive director. Adam Applegarth, slammed B&B for its uncompetitive postal rates.

The Nationwide, another committed mutual, has launched a "Savings Challenge" to encourage investors with converting building soci- eties to switch to its accounts. Meanwhile, managers of per-sonal equity plans (Peps) are gearing up to attract a tidal wave of around 16 million new shareholders with shares 

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and the Pass

If you do not decide to sell your free shares right away. they can be transferred straight into a Pep. The type of in plan should be chosen with care. Mr Thomas expects about 20 per cent of shareholders to sell their shares within the first few months, but says investors should think long count, for example, is

satisfy our selection criteria.



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predicting that interest rates

could increase in the coming

ional Savings Certificates are

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and hard before doing this. He said: There will be a big demand from institutional investors for these shares for some years to come."

Simon Philip, personal fi-nancial planning director at Binder Hamlyn, accountants. advised: The key factors to consider are what you want to use the money for and whether you have an appetite for investment risk. This will help to filter out certain prod-

ucts straight away." Main options in different risk categories are:

#### **LOW RISK**

Bank and building society accounts: The Halifax has recently announced some improvements to its accounts, but Christine Bayliss, investment editor of Moneyfacts, said: The best rates are currently to be obtained from postal accounts and direct banking operations. A high street account is convenient, but it is convenience at a price. Even if you want to use your account for paying bills, you will normally have time to get the money from a postal account."

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companies and are aften described as a halfway house between cash and shares. They invest in a mixture of

shares, property, fixed interest and cash. Profits are credited to your investment gradually in the form of regular bonuses, which can also be taken as income. The capital value is relatively secure. However, withprofits bonuses have been falling in recent years and it is not clear how well these bonds will perform in the future. Leading providers include the Prudenal and Norwich Union.

Guaranteed Equity Bonds: Sold mainly by banks and building societies, these appear to offer the best of both worlds. They promise growth linked to any increase in the stock market over a five-year term, or your money back plus a minimum return if the market disappoints. However, they can be expensive and inflexible.

#### HIGHER RISK

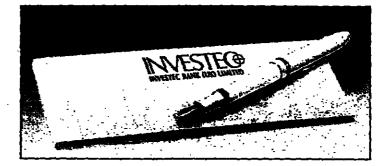
Personal Equity Plans (Peps): You are only allowed to invest up to £6,000 in a general Pcp in any one tax year and up to £3,000 in a single company Pcp. Although you can normally get at your money any time. a Pep is best suitable for money you are prepared to leave invested for around five years. The choice of Peps is vast. There are now more than

1,000 available from more than 200 plan managers.

A good core holding for many investors is an index tracker Pep, which aims to perform in line with the FT allshare index. Low-cost plans are offered by Legal & General and Virgin Direct. Some of the best results, however, are produced by active funds from managers such as Fidelity, Perpetual. Credit Suisse and Gartmore. Minimum investment in Peps

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#### Plain Speaking Home Insurance

these are not appropriate.

months, so you might regret

locking into fixed rates now. You could consider putting

some money into Premium

Bonds. The minimum invest-

ment is £100 and you could win

El million in the monthly draw

**MEDIUM RISK** 

■ Corporate Bond Peps: These invest in fixed-interest securities and other bonds of

established stock market com-

panies, rather than their equity

shares. They typically pay a

turns of around 7 per cent are

currently available - which is

completely tax-free. Minimum

investment normally starts at

around £1,000. If you do not

need an immediate income,

■ With-profits Bonds: These

without losing your stake.

# Renewing your Home Insurance in March or April?

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premiums

Switch your buildings insurance from your mortgage lender and we'll give you £25 off your 1st year's premium. What's more, if you take out contents insurance with Prudential at the same time, you will receive a 15% discount, plus there's a further 20% off your buildings and contents premium if you're aged 50 or over.

Find out how much you could save. Call our friendly staff



### now for a free quote. PLUS a FREE home security video.

Call Prudential on 0800 300 300

For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded. Please note, in some cases we may not be able to provide a quote. Please quote reference PRS 028.

#### A high return without locking your money



Why spend time searching the high street for a top rate of interest, when the solution is to be found somewhat closer to home?

Our range of postal accounts offers up to 6.75% gross p.a. and you will also enjoy all the convenience of dealing direct with one of the longest established building societies in the UK and Ireland: First National Building Society.

POSTAL NOTICE ACCOUNT					
NOTICE	90days	60 days	30days		
BALANCE	GROSS CAR	GROSS CAR	GROSS CAR		
£50,000 +	6.75%	6.70%	6.65%		
£25,000 +	6.70%	6.65%	6.60%		
£10,000 +	6.50%	6.40%	6.30%		
£5,000 +	6.40%	6.30%	6.20%		
£2,500 +	6.20%	6.10%	6.00%		
£1,000 +	5.10%	5.00%	5.00%		
£500 +	5.00%	4.90%	4.80%		

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irst Nationa BUILDING SOCIETY Registered in treland

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Where there is no initial charge, the buying and selling price of your PEP investment will be different because of the stockmarket costs incurred when the Fund Manager buys and sells investments for the portfolio. On 26,000 hump sum Where there is no initial charge, the buying and selling price of your PEP investment will be different because of the stockmarket costs incurred when the Fund Manager buys and sells investments for the portfolio. On 26,000 hump sum where there is no initial charge, the buying and selling price of your PEP investment will be different because of the stockmarket costs incurred when the Fund Manager buys and sells investments for the portfolio. On 26,000 hump sum investments and the income from them may no down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested Telephone with a property of the portfolio of the

# 0800829100

But not one of them dests our tem year deriormance of 271%. r fact, our Groken Fund is in the rot told of all unit trusts. tiat the incree. The and tem gears

For a propriate load up between Sam and Som, seven days a week.

There are schen PERs with no entry or exit pharges.

1All figures are based on buying to selling price with gross income reinvested to 1.3.97. Five year performance to 1.3.97 is 179% (Source: Micropel). The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.96 the investment objective of the fund (formerly known as Scotbits) was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMPIO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

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to top up your

company pension.

Did you know that to receive the maximum pension available, you would typically have to be a member of the

Or that changing your job, even once, could

Topping up your company pension with an Equitable

You make contributions from your gross income, with

Remember that the value of tax relief available will

depend on individual circumstances, and that current

dramatically reduce your pension? So that, just when you

Free-Standing Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme

same company pension scheme for 40 years?

can help bridge the gap.

tax relief at the highest rate you pay.

have more time to enjoy life, you have less money.

# A simple way to reduce pension costs

From Mr J. Travner Sir. As a chartered insurance practitioner, with a special interest in pension reform. I read your articles on pension charges with great interest.

One of the main reasons why costs have not reduced is the system for disclosing insurance company administration charges to the buyer. The main source of information about these charges is the key features document. given to potential policyholders. For all practical purposes it is a totally meaningless document. Paradoxically, this is due to improvements in most companies' products. The buyer is no longer locked into a fixed term plan but is able to increase, decrease or suspend their payments, make additional single payments and take the pension at different times between 50 and 75.

Unfortunately, the key features document does not recognise this new flexibility. It works on the basis that

the entire term. I suggest a simpler approach, that recognises that someone investing in a personal pension is effectively buying the fund management expertise of the insurance company. This means potential customers need to know two things: the charge for invest-ing the money in the first place and the

charge for maintaining the plan.

Companies would have to disclose how much of each contribution was actually invested. If companies were to present their initial charges in this way, you would not need to be an actuary to see that a company that invests £95 is giving bener value than one investing SS. The second piece of information would cover the maintenance costs of the plan. This is really no different from knowing how much British Gas would charge you for maintaining your central heating system.

Each year the plan holder would get a

someone will pay say, £100 a month for statement of the value of the fund together with how much the company approach, that recognises that someone has charged for running it during the previous year. This simpler presentation could encourage companies to offer special low-cost deals to customers; wishing to transfer pensions from others companies. Companies would be mader pressure to keep their annual charges. low if they knew their customers could take their money elsewhere.

An even more radical suggestion is to do away completely with any projection of the final fund or pension. This is because these are based on so many unknown factors, rates of return, armin rates, that they are effectively meaningless.

Yours faithfully JOHN TRAYNER. 21 Audley Close. St Ives.

Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

#### An investment that was a very little earner

From Mr R. Allen Sir, Referring to your article (Turning Ernie into a nice little earner, March 8) and, in particular, the final paragraph, I hold a number of Premium Bonds that were purchased in 1956, 1960 and 1963 that have never won a

It is obviously distressing to learn, therefore, that the prize

From Mr A.V. Purnell

Sir, I know clients are more

likely to believe and trust a

Scottish voice when calling

a telephone helpline but I

should like to point out that

Britannia Life is exploiting

this. It has a backlog of

about three to four weeks in

dealing with maturity of

endowment policies. Dis-

gruntled policyholders like me are told "we know the

service we are providing is

not good enough" and then

promised it will do all it

can to speed sending the cheque but "it often takes

RULLE

BRITANNIA LIFE

Scots take their revenge

of £1 million that was awarded this month was won on a Premium Bond that was purchased as recently as only last January.

A couple of years ago, I wrote to the Director of Savings asking whether he would consider arranging a supplementary draw once or twice a year to include only all those Premium Bonds that have

four days for first-class post

from Glasgow to reach English addresses".

In the meantime, the in-

terest due on my mortgage

still has to be paid. If I can

make 240 premium pay-

ments on time it seems

unfair that they cannot

make one payment on time

with the benefit of 20 years'

notice! Is it always this

difficult to get money out of

ANTHONY V. PURNELL,

the Scots?

Yours sincerely

Ferndale Cottage, Laddingford, Kent.

been held, say, for 20 years without ever winning a single

Sadly I was advised by one of his subordinates that this scheme would be impossible to implement. Yours faithfully ROBERT ALLEN. 45 Gefferys House, London Road, Hook, Hampshire.

From Mr F.R. Yule Sir, Did anyone notice that out of the 156 large Premium Bond prizes won in March only two went to bondholders in Scotland?

I know we comprise only about 10 per cent of the population and our reputation with money could be a reason for being wary of a computer, but surely the ratio of Scottish investors to the rest is not this

Yours faithfully, FRANK YULE, I The Orchard, 7 Tipperlinn Road, Edinburgh.

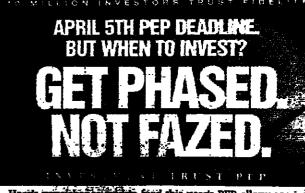
#### B&W 'bought on the cheap?

From Dr S. J. Jennings Sir, If the Bank of Ireland. takes over the Bristol and West Building Society, borrowers will only qualify for 250 preference shares worth £250 - while investors with relatively small sums in their accounts, will get £250 - or £500 cash - plus bonuses, depending on their balances.

As a borrower of over 20 years, never in arrears, I feet that I have contributed significantly to the value of the B&W and that this is not sufficiently recognised. For the takeover to proceed, a majority of borrowers, independently of investors, must vote in favour.

My disquiet was increased on reading that Northern Rock investors and borrowers are to be rewarded with shares worth EL,390 on flotation. Are B&W members being

bought out too cheaply? Yours faithfully, DR S. JENNINGS, The Moathouse, Church Street, Blackmore, Essex.



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would like a lepends on the profits made y the life office and on its slicy as to their distribution

circumstances). Putur rates, both annual and its. The last free incom en out of a fiend which is

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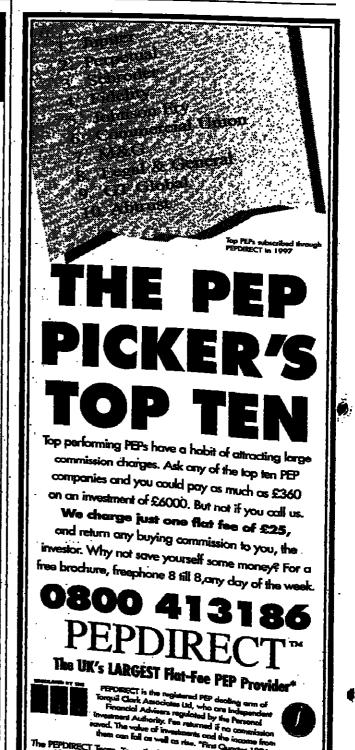
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### THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE Tax guides by the shelf-full

The Lloyds Bank Tax
Guide has been rewritten for 1997 to assist the

and explains how to claim a
tax refund if you are entitled
to it. The book also has a nine million people facing the self-assessment challenge. Each part of the tax form is handled separately, and is designed to make the task as painless as possible. Included are 75 tax-saving ideas, advice on how to deal with your tax inspector and avoid excessive tines, plus hints on how to minimise your tax bill. Published by Profile Books Ltd on April 3. priced £7.99.

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If you are looking to invest more than £100,000, a new book written by Andrew Locke and Ian Locke sets out the options available for secure and profitable investment over a five-year term. The book covers the traditional investment choices, as well as alternative investments such as art and antiques. Published by Hale on April 3.
Investing £100,000 to
£10,000,000 for Security and Profit is priced £16.

Check Your Tax & Money Facts 1997-98, published by Foulsham, gives a detailed summary of the changes pro-posed in the 1997 Budget, provides helpful advice on completing your tax return,

investment (£)

5,000

10,000

20,000

50,000

1,000

3,000

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3,000 20,000

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20,000

1 Year

2 Years

3 Years

4 Years

5 Years

GUAHANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at March 20, 1997

Company

AIG Life (UK) AIG Life (UK)

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Hambro Assured

tax refund if you are entitled to it. The book also has a section on pay, perks and pensions. The guide is relevant for everyone whether you are a student, a pensioner or a higher-rate taxpayer. Avail-able in bookshops. priced £5.99.

BDO Stoy Hayward, the chartered accountant, has produced a comprehensive guide to tax and financial planning. The 90-page guide covers topics such as charitable giving, estate planning and selling a family company. For a free copy, call 0171486 5888.

Whether you are single, mar-ried, divorced or cohabiting, Wills and Probate will show you how to write your will in such a way that your wishes can be carried out without complications. The Which? guide offers guidance on what to include in the will, how to sign it and witness the document without employing a solicitor. It also explains how to administer the estate of someone who has died. Wills and Probate can be ordered on 0800 252100 (£10.99, p&p free) or from bookshops.

LIZANNE ROSE &

Rate (%)

5.45

5.60

5,00

5.90 6.00

5.35

6.05 6.15

5.80

6.35 6.45

5.90 6.75 6.80

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060 Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Bristol & West BS 0800 901109 Stroud & Swindon BS 0800 618161	Instant Acc Select Inst Instant Post Direct Inst	Instant Postal Postal Postal	£1 £5,000 £10,000 £50,000	5.75 6.35 6.40 6.60	Y) Y) Y)
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First National BS 0800 558844 Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Scarborough BS 0800 590578 Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2257777	30 Day Notice Select 60 Scarborough 100 Postal Bonus	30 day p 60 day p 100 day 30.6,98p	£10,000 £10,000 £1,000 £50,000	6.30 6.50 6.30 7.05	Yhy Yhy Yhy OM
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Abbey National 0800 100801 Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505 Holmesdale BS 01737 245716 West Bromwich BS 0990 143668	Fxd + feeder a/c Fxd + feeder a/c		£9,000 £8,575 £2,500 £3,000	7.50 7.50 7.00 7.00	F/Yiy F/Yiy Yiy Yiy

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 RBS Advanta 0800 077770 Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Advantage Visa Visa Visa	0,64%NC 0.79%N 0.79%N	7.90%N 9.90%N 9.90%N	Ni Ni Ni
S? PERS	ONAL LOANS E	BEST BUYS		
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payme with insurance	nt on £3,00	0 for 3yrs
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421 Lombard Direct 0800 215000	12.90%H 13.90%A	£112.66 £120.02		£102.59
	13.20.207	£ 120.02		スリリー

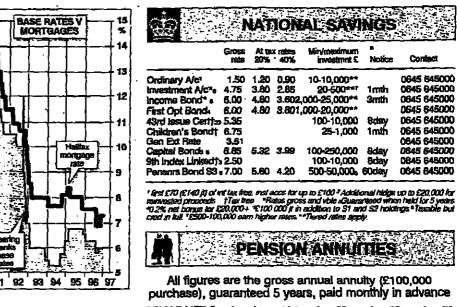
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319.30 362.40 337.50 347.40 184.70 335.00 199.50 194.30

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er MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677



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		SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
SE 100 - CE INDEX	4450	Sun Li of CanLevel		£ 9,657	£10,702	£12,128
		Canada Lite,Level		€ 9,574	£10,658	£12,134
1	4400	StalwartLevel		£ 9,533	£10,639	£11,755
	7 ****	Royal Sun AllLevel		£ 9,429	£10,573	£12,122
7		Sun LifeLevel		£ 9,421	£10,536	£12,044
	4350	SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
		PrudentialLevel		£9,013	£ 9,818	£11,001
يما چيج ماي	4300	Canada LifeLevel		£8,874	29,686	210,874
. 🕶 🐪	.	Sun Lf of CanLevel		£8,913	£ 9,658	£10,751
	: 1	Norwich UnionLevel		£8,838	£ 9,598	£10,708
STANCE OF	4250	StalwartLevel		28,668	£ 9,571	£10,453
		JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
أحب المجود	4200	(level annuity)	Female:	Age 55	Age 60	Age 65
		Stalwart ,Level		£8,465	29,153	£ 9,930
	4150	Sun Lt of CanLevel		£8,534	£9,113	£ 9,936
100	<u> </u>	PrudentialLevel		£8,536	£9,068	£ 9,886
<b>《建筑标准》</b>	<u> </u> 출시	Canada Life,Level		£8,445	29,067	£ 9,949
	4100	Norwich UnionLevel		28,398	28,968	£ 9,778
		Source: Armsty Direct (0171 588 §	393)			
TV:	4050	Statistics co	mpiled i	ov Lizan	ne Rose	
_ Feb _ M	ter			<u></u>		

Lender

Newbury

Benks

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0181 298 5831

Bruk of Ireland

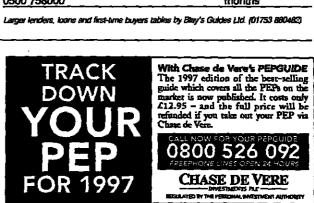
01189 510100 TSB Bank

Bullding Societies Bristol & West 0800 119955

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	P	IBS	, 3°		7
			%		Minimum
	Gross	Buying	Gross	Issue	
FIXED RATE	conbou	price	yield	price	amount
Birmingham Midshire	s 9.375%	104.59	8.950	100.17	1.000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	128.43	9.051	100.13	
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	143.54	9.057	100.20	
Bristol & West	13.375%	148.30	9.019	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	143.38	9.067	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12,125%	134,92	8.954	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	126.63	9.279	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	100.70	8.689	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	134.77	8.587	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	154.80	8.802	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	149.45	8.949	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	121,24	8.849	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	141.27	8.937	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	142.37	8.868	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	143.89	8.948	100.48	1,000
	Gross	Buying	g k	ssue	Minimum
<b>FLOATING RATE</b>	conbos	pric		orice	purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03	18.41563%	110.50	3 100	3.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)		100.5	100	0.00	1,000
PIBS = Permanent Interest- Source ABN AMRO Hoare (	bearing shares Govett — 0171	601 0101			
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	SHARE IN	FOCUS - E			- 490
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Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Allance & Leic 0800 412214	4.25	to £250k	90,	3% discount to 1.5.98
Woolwich 0181 298 5831	4.29	£20-200k	50	3% disc-12 mt plus 3% cashb
Nationwide 0800 302010	3.09	to £500k	75	3.90% discount for 1 year
Banks Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% dsc-6 m
0118 9510100 Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	4.25	£150-250k	90	3% disc-6 mon 3% discount to 1.10.97
%	LA	HGER	.OAI	is .
%	I.A.	HGER I	GAI Max	IS
	Interest	Loan	Max	
Building Societies Scarborough	Interest	Loan	Max	Notes
Building Societies Scarborough 1800 590547 Nottingham Imper.	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies Scarborough 1800 590547 Nottingham Imper. 1115 981 7220 Hinckley & Rugby	Interest rate % 0.25	Losin size £30-100k	Max % 95	Notes 6.99% for 6 mt 2% 6mth 0.5% Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Building Societies Scarborough 1800 590547 Nothingham Imper 1115 981 7220 Hinckley & Rugby 1800 774499	Interest rate % 0.25 0.75	Loan size 930-100k 925-150k	Max % 95 75	Notes 6.99% for 6 mt 2%-6mth,0.5%- Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98 6% discount fo
Lender Building Societies Scarborough 1800 590547 Nottingham Imper. 1115 981 7220 Hincidey & Rugby 1800 774499 Semics Sank of Ireland 1118 9510100	Interest rate % 0.25 0.75	Loan size 930-100k 925-150k	Max % 95 75	Notes 6.99% for 6 mt 2%-6mth,0.5%- Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98 6% discount fo

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FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Notes

3.75% discount

for one year 3% discount for

2% discount for

6.50% disc 6 mths

3% disc 6 mths 3.74% disc for 12

12 months

12 months

Loan size

rate %

3.50

3.51

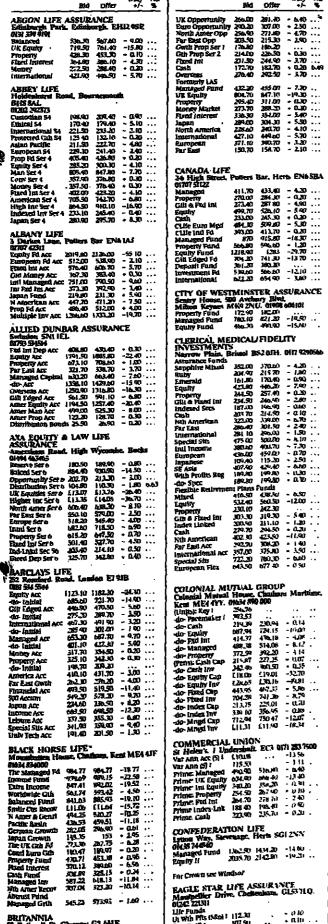
3.99 £15-150k

5.29 £20-200k

0.99 £20-145k

£15k+

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Fig. 12. 10. 1-84.0 1-84.0	A Interes Cap G-ACC I	1 2001.50 187 70		- 290 - 490	:	Property Fund	648_70 502_40	680,90 529,90	- 4,50 + 0,60	•••
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Page Chemister	erible Cap ! 0 1 0-1	390.50 669.30	:	- 8 10			-			
Section Stand Chreimsford Eases CMI IPS House Control House Hous	Ceresh 1 (خطوا	2230.20		-1050		Prierborough PE26GG, 073	Posipes 3 399000	Paris, Po	SURAN SEFbero	gh
ner bond acc	& G ctoria Road,	Chelmsk	and, Essa	a CMI I	FB	Muji Giow (45)	2 070	543.70		•••
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100 100	لبو داصلدیور	325.00	342.20	-11 60		Op Managed Op Deposit	428.50	1025.90 451.00	+ 0.40	
18	pose Bond Acc	194.00 1940.70	113,380	- 74.40	•••	Managed Citi British	158,90 490,90	377,70 506,20	- 4.30 - 5.50	•••
gil Yield Bond 39.10 40.00 1 27.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00	ITE YEAR BAS ANT	จะเก		- 4,60 -35,00 - 5,50		Gold Share	92.40	133 40 17-30 342-50	- 1 PA	
pan Bond Acc 18-170 194 10 - 3-70 pan Smit Cos 175 10 183-00 - 172-0 pan Smit Cos 175 10 183-00 - 172-0 pan Smit Cos 483-00 172-0 pan Smit Cos 18-00 182-00 pan	old Bond ACC gh Yield Bond	185.20 391.10	194.60 410.801	- K 713		Us Senir Cos	501.80	622.90	- 102-70	
or Bond Acc	icrnational Bd nan Bond Act	181.70	194 10	- 20.50 + 3.70		ROYAL LIFE	INSURA	NCE		
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	~}4 U I	u D	ned, Wo	mhing	ا	International	563.80	973.4D	- 6.40	
### RECHANT INVESTORS Bardsoloments House, Levium Mead into SS1,201 20,300 - 0,300 - 1,300 -	VI) ZDY, D)90 C Equity	3.204631 202.90	247.80	- 7.20]		391.90 423.90	411.90 446-20	- 3,00	
### RECHANT INVESTORS Bardsoloments House, Levium Mead into SS1,201 20,300 - 0,300 - 1,300 -	ecisi yis vac ecisi yis	118.60 118.40	124.90	- 3.00 - 4.40		SAVE & PRO	SPER Road, Ro	njerd, 1	Canez	
### RECHANT INVESTORS Bardsoloments House, Levium Mead into SS1,201 20,300 - 0,300 - 1,300 -	nth American American Act	242.90 371.30	255 60 390,80	- 0.40 - 0.30	:	belles frod		06.10	- Im	25!
### RECHANT INVESTORS Bardsoloments House, Levium Mead into SS1,201 20,300 - 0,300 - 1,300 -	cific Basin Acc cific Basin Acc urd Interest	337,40 515,80 300,30	555,20 542,03 319,30	- 1.90 - 2.40 - 3.10		Gib Fund Clobal Equity F	600,39 d 277,40	635-33 293-60	- 6-50 - 2-70	8.41
### RECHANT INVESTORS Bardsoloments House, Levium Mead into SS1,201 20,300 - 0,300 - 1,300 -	ied (hiered Act	164,[0 183,10	998,60 [93 10	- 4.40 - 0 10	:::	Property Point P AG Bond Fund	127.40 163.70	129.60 173.30	+ (1,20 - 2,30	7.30
### RECHANT INVESTORS Bardsoloments House, Levium Mead into SS1,201 20,300 - 0,300 - 1,300 -	openy Act Posti mali Act	28U,70 15U,00 717 10	245,50 153 10 349,60	• U40		SCOUTISH A	MICABL	Ħ.		
### RECHANT INVESTORS Bardsoloments House, Levium Mead into SS1,201 20,300 - 0,300 - 1,300 -	unaped Diged ACC	305,90 420,92	322,00 453,60	- 4.70 - 6.30	:::	150 St Vinctor	Street, G	angún:		
Currency 262.60 276.60 + 0.30						Flaci Interest Todos-Linkel	419 90 217.00	812,30 442,00 278,50	- 4,30 - 0,80	-::
Currency 262.60 276.60 + 0.30	Barthologery paol BSI 2NA	s House	Levis	Mead		international Property	516.80 324.30	541.ID 341.40	- 530 + 0.40	
Currency	7 9266 386					Cash Managed	251,10 568,80 181,60	394.40 598.80	- 610 + 010	
Currency	. Eduiry il Edged ensi Fund	686.70 450.00	727.80 458.90	- \$.70 + 0.50	::	95% Safeguard 100% Safeguard	(02.70 99.80	:::	01.1 +	
Currency	naged Fd Equity	586.20 702.00	617.00 736.90	- 5.10 - 7.40	:::	Wealth Pres Cap Wealth Pres Inc	101,50 91,40	:::	- 240 +17,60	::
OBJ SS 980	igh American Fear Louissea	297_20 448.40	707.50 672.00 776.40	- 3.30 - 3.70						
RINTCH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS (CIETY - Ex NUAM Funds (Box 140, Norwick NRS 1PP (BIS 122.20) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.23) (BIS 22.23		سيد	2.040		∤	28 St Andrew 5 0131 5% 9101	Spore E	لرساحف		
RINTCH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS (CIETY - Ex NUAM Funds (Box 140, Norwick NRS 1PP (BIS 122.20) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.23) (BIS 22.23	Gracedurel					Inves-Linked	(98,9)) (84,10 274(0)	309,380 193,80 210,00	- 0.15 - 0.10	
RINTCH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS (CIETY - Ex NUAM Funds (Box 140, Norwick NRS 1PP (BIS 122.20) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.23) (BIS 22.23	naked Louis	596-10 823-40	627.40 No.70	- n.70 -(n.30	::: }	Mised LTK Equity	3)6.70 3)2.91	333.50 129.40	- 650 - 860	
RINTCH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS (CIETY - Ex NUAM Funds (Box 140, Norwick NRS 1PP (BIS 122.20) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.23) (BIS 22.23	ereas Equity Refers	549.00 532.80	577.80 560.80	- 3 IO	:: }	American	303,63) 384,10 860,30	3(9,00 409,60 300.20	- 120 - 520	:::
RINTCH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS (CIETY - Ex NUAM Funds (Box 140, Norwick NRS 1PP (BIS 122.20) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.22) (BIS 22.23) (BIS 22.23	perty ed Intenet	213 (0 441 30	467.00	1 (). () 1 (). () 2 ().	:: I	Furopean PadDc	355.80 365.00	374.50 384.30	- 210 - 9.10	
DRWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE CLETY - Ex NUAM Funds 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 IVE 03 A22200 10 Statement Square, Edinburgh EH2 IVE 03 A2220	lesed Gilli per H	250,40 27,70	27U 40 250 20	- 0.70 - 0.20	·:: }	Technology	5 7.60 344.00	544.80 256.90	-16,90 -16,90	
Box 140. Narwick NR31PP 01312252211 Progenty 235.70 246.20 + 0.20	RWICH UN	JON L	FE INS			SCOTTISH LE 19 St Audress	FE INVE	STME	AS EH21	YÈ
	Box 140, No 83 azzzen	reich X	RSIPP		1	0(31 225 221)	136.70	246 35		
Color Colo				-07.00 -07.00 -160	::: [UK Equity American Pacific	473.30 349.40 343.40	446.30 357.90 367.90	-1130 . - 730 . - 080	
Fund 247 10 31270 - 1.70 Fixed Interest 272.20 280.00 - 3.40	p eny FO yo Jaji Fo posis Fond	00, 596 00, 596 01, 730	725.20 100.00	- 920 - 030	::	European , Clobal Mod	394.50 394.50	668.00 384.00	- 5,80 - 4,00	
	Fund	247 10	1 <u>1270</u>	- 1.70	5	Fiscal Interest	272-20	284.60	~ 340	•••

N AERIEF ACC 223-30 235-60 - 3-50 Pactific Acc 199,00 146-70 - 1.00 European Acc 267-30 262,00 - 1.90	Safety Pand 277.40 292.00 - 240 . Grawth Fund 290.20 205.50 - 3.40 . Opportunity Pd 292.50 307.90 - 3.00 .
PEAGL ASSIDANCE	Cash Fund 199.70 199.70 + 0.10 European Fund 460.90 485.20 - 0.50
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Prestborough PEZ 6FY, 01733 410 410	Gilla & Fadini 211.70 246.00 - 4.00
Inv Prop Dist 143.00 149.50 + 0.30	Index_Linked Fd 201 40 212.10 - 0.00 International Fd 327.10 344.40 + 0.10
Prop Act (Gross) 341.40 359.40 + 0.60 Let Equity 1566.20 1648.50 -43.20	North American 330.10 347.50 - 1.40 Property Punt 132.60 139.60 - 1.80 .
Inv Managed 1047.30 102.50 -19.20 Rei Managed 1222.30 1286.70 -22.40	UK Equity 323.10 340.20 - 5.50 UK Smaller 349.20 367.60 - 5.40
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For Profilipent Michael see General Accident	SCOTTISH PROVIDENT
PRUDENTIAL Hollory Bars, London ECIN ZNH	6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EF12 ZY. 0131 556 9481
0(7) 405 9222 Manageri 437,30 456,60 - 5,20	Miled 340.20 258.20 - 5.10 Equity 381.00 401.10 - 7.60
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FOS	i taurmational 31330 32490 - 240
I Siephen Serest, London WIP 24P 0171568 3278	Property 20.80 260.90 + 0.20 Phad Interes: 271.30 285,70 - 2.50
0171 548 3278 Managed Fand 979.00 1030.60 -14,20	Flued Interest 271.30 283.70 - 2.50 Index United 202.40 213.40 - 0.40 Cash 202.50 213.00 - 0.10
Equity Pond 2048.00 2155.80 -42,40	Portneriv Profilic
Intl Pand 754.30 794.00 - 7.80 Pixed Interes: 648.70 682.90 - 4.50	Bal Gwil: Mingo 1000.80 1061.70 -17,40
Property Fund 502.40 528.90 + 0.60 Cash Prind 398.50 +19.50 + 0.30	Property Forad 320.40 337.70 + 0.30 Equity Fund 10:27.00 1135.20 -15.00
Pacific Basin 355,40 374,20 - 5,30 N American Fd 398,90 419,90 - 4,80	Pad Interest Fund 555.40 585.30 - 4.10
Euro Fand 371,50 391,10 - 3,90	}{ 141525 Incounc 919.20 977.90 -25.60
Balanced Fund 194.10 234.40 - 2.80 Strength Fund 211.90 223.10 - 3.10	Parpasi
	Special Sits 918.50 977.20 -22.40 Technology 94.9.70 1031.70 -35.10
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE	EEETT I THEOTER HO SOO SO 532.50 - 4.30
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE26GG, 07733 398000	European 193.60 206.00 - 1.70
Mult Grow (45) 3 941.10	Adventurous Mg 256.00 269.80 - 3.80 Seture Mgd 179.70 189.40 - 1.60
Op Prop 52540 554.50 - 0.30 Op Equity 1253.60 1319.50 -31.50	Equity Inc Dist 138.60 146.10 - 4.00 43 Managed Dist 126.00 132.80 - 1.20 43
One Huber Yheld 6714.90 712.50 -11.00	Henderson investment Bonds
Op Managed 975.60 1025.90 -17.10 Op Deposit 428.50 451.00 - 0.40	UK Equity F6 424.50 451.60 - 8.50 North america 474.40 504.70 - 10.30
Japan Smit 171.00 179.90 - 2.60 Managed Gib 358.90 377.70 - 4.10	Par East Pund \$77.90 609.50 - 7.10 Global Manageri 562.30 598.20 - 6.70
British 490.90 506.20 - 5.50	DepositFund 248.60, 261.70
Global Bond 124 90 133 40 - 0.90 Gold Share 92.40 97.20 - 3.80	European Fund 153.80 174.40 - 4.90
Japan 325 40 342.50 - 1,70 11s. Smir Cos 591.82 422.90 - 10.50	Floord) purerest 6/40 67,40 - 0.40
Mngd Growth 582.30 412.90 - 7.00	SCOTTISH WIDOWS
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE	PO Box 902, Edinburgh EHJA 5BU 0131 655 6000
New Hall Place, Liverpool LAPSHS	1hv Pol 1 1245.10 1245.10 -20.00
0(5) 234 3900 Royal Life Unit Linked	Day Pol 2 1125-10 1184-50 ~18.90 1ay Pol 3 1063-10 1119-20 ~17.90
Managed Fund 473.90 46.80 ~ 8.70	Inv Cash 345.00 364.10 • 0.40 Mixed Fund 559.30 588.00 • 9.70
Property Fund 354.20 372.85 + 1.30	Equity Fund 716-20 754.00 ~21.40
International 563.80 593.40 - 6.40 Pacific Basin 270.20 284.40 - 3.30	Property Fund 270 to 285.00 • 0.10 International Fd 565.50 995.30 • 2.50
(inhed States 391.40 411.90 - 3.00	Placed Inverses Fd 434.90 457.90 - 6.00
	Cash Panid 250.10 263.30 + 0.20
OLIT & DEOCHER	
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essez	
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 31.B. 01706 V64964	SKANDIA LIFE
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LR, 01708 Yes-M2 Rul tav Fund 90,60 96.10 - 1.00 2.51 Deposit Fund 02 414.00 438.40 + 9.50 6.52	SKANDIA LIFE Shandis House. Portioned Terroce. Southenston SO9 78%.
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RMI 31R 0708 16090 RMI 31R 10708 16090 Page 1 100 90.10 - 1.00 2.51 Deposit Fand [2] 414.10 438.00 - 0.50 6.52 Gla Fund 600.33 638.30 - 6.50 8.41	SKANDIA LIFE Shadds House, Portland Terrace, Southernpion, SO9 78X 0703 33441
15-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RMI 318, 0708 160946 Izal Inv Fund 90,80 96,10 - 1.00 2.51 Deposit Fund 214.30 498.00 + 950 5.52 Global Equity 60,23 6.87.30 - 6.36 8.41 Clobal Equity 61 217.40 293.00 - 270	SKANDIA LIFE Shandin House. Portland Terrace, Southenpion, SO9 78X. 10703 334411 Managet Acc. 482.60 508.00 - 6.80 Equity Acc. 482.60 508.00 - 6.80 Equity Acc. 482.60 508.00 - 6.80
15-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RMI 318, 01708 166466 Rail for Fund 90,89 90,10 - 1.00 2.51 Deposit Fund 90,89 40,40 + 9,50 0,52 Glib Fund 600,39 6,85,30 - 6,50 8,41 Cliobal Equity Fd 277,40 289,60 - 2,70	SKANDIA LIFE Shandin House. Portland Terrace, Sorthampion SO9 78X. 0703 33441 Managed Acc. 482.60 508.00 - 6.80
15-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RMI 318. 0708 160946 Eal far Fund 90,90 90,10 - 1.00 251 Deposit Fund 2 414,00 438,40 + 0.50 0.52 Gli Fund 600,39 438,40 + 0.50 0.52 Gli Fund 727,40 238,40 - 0.50 841 Clobal Equity Fd 277,40 238,00 - 270 Property Fund 404 124,00 128,00 - 0.00 730 AG 8000 Fund 100.70 1773.30 - 2.30	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House, Portisad Terrace, Sostilumpion, SO9 TBX, 10703 35441 Managed Acc 48240 508.00 - 6.80 Equity Acc 414.00 640.30 - 1.60 International Acc 371.80 391.30 - 1.60 Property 241.00 257.60 • 0.30
15-72 Western Road, Romford, Essex RMI SLR, 0708 160464 kal law Fund 90,80 9c.10 - 1.00 251 Deposit Fund (2) 414.30 438.40 4 950 552 Global Equity 61 217.40 293.60 - 2.70 Property Fund (6) 122.60 - 0.20 7.30 AG Bond Fund 163.70 173.30 - 2.30 SCOTTISH AMIICABLE 150 St Vinctor Spreet, Glosgow	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House. Portland Terrace. Sestimatipion SO9 78X. 97789 304411 Managed Acc 48260 508.00 - 6.80 48260 508.00 - 6.80 1.00 11.00 11.00 11.00 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO
15-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RMI 318, 0700 160404 Izal Izw Fund 90,89 9c.10 - 1.00 251 Deposit Fund 90,89 9c.10 - 1.00 251 Deposit Fund 60,29 685,30 - 0.50 841 Clobal Equity R 217,40 293-00 - 270 Property Fund For 127,40 128-00 - 0.20 7.30 AG Bond Fund 163,70 173,30 - 2,30 SCOTTISH AMICABLE 155 St Vigetas Street, Glasgow 044 282 223 Fully 771,50 812,20 - 16,000	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House. Portland Terrace. Sestimentation SO9 78X 97789 304411 Managed Acc 48240 508.00 - 8.80 84810 Acc 48240 508.00 - 8.80 1.00 11.00 11.00 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Sandard Life House, 30 Lothian Road. Edisbarte Edit (20th 683 25 505
15-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 318. 0708 166446. Bal law Fund 90.80 90.10 - 1.00 2.51 Deposit Fand 29 414.30 438.40 - 9.50 9.52 Gib Fund 600.30 635.30 - 6.50 8.41 Global Equity Fd 277.40 239.60 - 2.70 Property Fund Hot 122.40 124.60 - 0.20 7.30 AU Bond Fund 160.70 177.30 - 2.50 SCOTTISH AMICABLE 158 St Vigotas Street, Glospow 944 288 225 Equity 771.50 812.20 -16.00 Fleed Impress 419 90 442.00 - 4.30	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House, Portland Terrace, Sentimentation SO9 783, orton 35441 Managed Act 46260 508.00 - 8.80 Log 187 Act 462.00 508.00 - 1.80 Managed Act 462.00 508.00 - 1.80 Managed Act 462.00 508.00 - 1.80 Michael Managed Act 71.80 391.30 - 1.80 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Sendard Life House, 30 Lothian Road. Edinburgh EH1 2094 031 225 252 Cash 291.50 309.00 9.10 Edinburgh EH1 2094 031 225 252 Cash 342.00 342.00 442.00
15-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 31R, 0700 160446 Eal law Fund 90,80 90,10 - 1,00 251 Deposit Fund (2) 414,30 437,40 + 0,50 0,52 Global Equity of 277,40 253,60 - 2,70 Property Fund (40) 122,40 128,60 - 0,20 7,30 AG Rond Fund 163,70 173,30 - 2,30 SCOTTISH AMICABLE 156 St Vinctus Street, Glusgow 044 282 3222 Guilly 771,50 812,20 -10,00 Fluch Impress 149 90 442,00 - 4,30 Today-linked 217,00 228,59 - 0,98	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House. Portland Terrace. Sestingstylon SO9 78X 07783 334411 Managed Acc 48240 508.00 - 6.80 Equity Acc 414.00 693.00 - 1.80 Mitemational Acc 371.80 391.30 - 1.80 Property 241.00 257.60 0.30 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Sandard Life House, 30 Lothian Road. Editalough EH1 2DH 038 225 252 Cath 291.90 309.00 0.10 Equity 353.80 1425.10 - 3420 Equity 353.80 1425.10 - 3420
15-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 318. 0708 166446. Stal far Fund 90.09 90.10 - 100 251 Deposit Fund 90.09 90.10 - 100 251 Deposit Fund 90.09 90.30 - 100 251 Gib Fund 600.39 685.39 - 635 841 Clohal Equity Fd 227.40 239.60 - 270 Property Fund Hot 122.40 122.60 - 0.20 7.30 AGI Bond Fund 160.70 173.30 - 2.50 SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 SV Visctor Street, Glasgow 9044 28 225 Equity 771.50 812.20 -16.00 Fluch Impress 449 90 442.00 - 4.30 Index-lighted 117.00 228.59 - 0.86 Index-lighted 117.00 28.59 - 0.86 Index-lighted 117.00 544.10 - 5.30 Froperty 24.00 344.10 9.00 Cosh 251.10 264.00 9.00 Cosh 251.10 264.00 9.00	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House, Portisad Terrace, Southentpion SO9 TEX. 10703 35441 Managed Acc 48240 508.00 - 6.80 International Acc 371.50 591.30 - 1.60 Property 371.50 591.30 - 1.60 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Sendard Life House, 30 Lothian Road. Edinburgh EH12DH 031 225 552 Cash 291.30 309.00 - 0.10 Equity 353.85 1455.10 -34.20 Equity 353.85 1455.10 -34.20 European 20.80 20.90 - 20.90 3.20 Fay Zast 160.40 173.40 - 1.60 Fay Zast 160.40 173.40 - 1.60
15-22 Weslern Road, Romford, Essex RM 318. 07108 160404	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House, Portisad Terrace, Southentpion SO9 TEX. 10703 35441 Managed Acc 48240 508.00 - 6.80 International Acc 371.50 591.30 - 1.60 Property 371.50 591.30 - 1.60 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Sendard Life House, 30 Lothian Road. Edinburgh EH12DH 031 225 552 Cash 291.30 309.00 - 0.10 Equity 353.85 1455.10 -34.20 Equity 353.85 1455.10 -34.20 European 20.80 20.90 - 20.90 3.20 Fay Zast 160.40 173.40 - 1.60 Fay Zast 160.40 173.40 - 1.60
15-22 Weslery Road, Romford, Essex RM 318. OTO 160406	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House, Portland Terrace, Sentinentpion, SO9 7BX, 10703 33-411 Managed Act. 482.60 508.00 - 6.80 Equity Acc. 416.00 - 6830 - 1.60 International Act. 371.80 591.30 - 1.60 International Act. 371.80 591.30 - 1.60 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 31 Lothian Road. Editaburg Edit 201 5091.30 309.00 - 0.10 Equity 155.80 145.10 - 94.20 European 201.80 125.60 483.10 - 4.50 Fined Interest 458.50 483.10 - 4.50 International 600.40 78.60 - 7.60 International 600.40 78.60 - 7.60
15-22 Weslern Road, Romford, Essex RM 318. OTO 1604/64 RM 187 Part 90.80 90.10 - 1.00 251 Deposit Fand 24 44.10 438.91 - 6.50 8.41 Clobal Equity 477.90 253.90 - 270 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 270 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 270 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 173.30 - 2.30 - 70.70 -	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House. Portland Terrace. Sestimentpion SO9 78X 07789 334411 Managed Acc 48240 508.00 - 8.80 Equity Acc 48240 508.00 - 8.80 Property 31.00 391,30 - 1.00 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Sendard Life House, 30 Lothian Rond. Edinburgh EH1 2DH 03H 225 525 Cash 235.80 1425.10 - 34.20 Emngenn 20140 125.00 - 3.20 First Investigation 455.00 - 3.20 First Investigation 455.00 482.10 - 4.50 Investigation 455.00 482.10 - 4.50 International 600.00 716.30 - 7.20 Managed 861.00 472.00 - 7.20 Managed 861.00 472.00 - 7.20 Managed 31.30 472.00 - 7.20 Managed 861.00 472.00 - 7.20 Managed 31.30 472.00 - 1.00 Mill American 30.30 31.30 - 1.00
15-22 Weslery Road, Romford, Essex RM 318. OTO 160406	SKANDIA LIFE Shandle House. Portland Terrace. Sentinempton SO9 783. 10703 33441 Managed Acc. 482.60 908.00 - 8.80 Equity Acc. 482.60 908.00 - 1.80 International Acc. 71.80 991.30 - 1.20 Property 31.00 257.80 - 0.30 STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Sendard Life House, 30 Lothian Road. Editalough E41 2004 0918 25 552 Cash 291.90 399.00 0.10 Editalough E41 2004 0918 25 552 Cash 291.90 399.00 - 0.10 Editalough 271.00 399.00 - 0.10 Employ 353.80 1425.10 - 3420 Employem 294.80 220.90 - 3.20 Employem 294.80 220.90 - 3.20 Employem 279.80 220.40 - 0.16 Find Inserts 179.80 270.40 - 0.70 International 600.40 716.30 - 7.20 Managed 861.00 427.40 - 7.20 Managed 370.00 21.50 - 7.20 Managed 370.00 21.50 - 1.00 Froperty 400.00 421.10 - 0.50 Froperty 400.00 421.10 - 0.50
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Classic publication upholds tradition of high standards

imeform: 50-year-old. Phil Bull - By Chance (Dick Whitford). Good sort, topclass performer with classic pedigree. Pinpointed thousands of winners every year during outstanding career. Admirably game, genuine and consistent. Effective under any conditions and in most countries. Scope for further improvement (on Internet) and a credit to connections.

Thus, modesty permitting, the gurus of Halifax might use their own instantly recognisable but quaint terminology to describe the organisation as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.

Two unconnected events this month serve to illustrate the success and reputation enjoyed by Timeform's racing publications. At the Cheltenham Festival, a record 15,000 racecards, complete with ratings and commentaries, were sold to punters. Meanwhile, racing's most important supporter was leafing through the 1,168 pages of the latest Racehorses annual. "Her Majesty was, as always, pleased to receive this invaluable publication." a recent letter, on Buckingham Palace notepaper and pinned to the company notice board, states.

Yet, as with many of the best things in life, when the word Timeform — "a marriage of Time and Form" - first appeared 50 years ago, it came about more by

The Timeform organisation is celebrating its

fiftieth anniversary. Richard Evans reports

chance than design. Although Phil Bull is widely acknowledged to have been the inventor, there would have been no Timeform without Dick Whitford, who had learnt the art of handicapping during wartime service in the Royal Navy.

With Bull struggling in the winter of 1947-48 to meet the deadline for his latest edition of Best Horses, it was Whitford who proposed a publication introducing form ratings and thumbnail sketches of horses which led to the Best Horses of 1947 Timeform Supplement, published in April 1948. The forerunner to the Racehorses series launched the Timeform empire, although it is doubtful if even Bull was aware of the potential in the early years.

'It came about by accident as a business, because originally this idea was conceived to help Phil with his betting," Reg Griffin, who joined Bull in 1957 and is now Timeform chairman, explained.

Maybe not, but the success of the annuals and the updates through-out the summer quickly proved to be money-spinners. However, the turning point for Timeform arguably came in 1962 when it introduced racecards for individual

meetings, started National Hunt weekly "Black Books" and moved in Halifax to purpose-built offices. From being regarded by some as tipsters in the back streets of Halifax', we became 'respectable'."

The influence of the ratings and commentaries led to Timeform being dubbed the punters' Bible. much to the disgust of Bull, a lifelong atheist. After a knight of the shires had opined, within earshot of the great man, that his motto was "to follow Bull and the Bible" at the races, there was an instant retort. "I don't think I take very kindly to being associated with that publication."
Nonetheless, eight years after
Bull died, at the age of 79, his spirit

lives on at Timeform House, with its 80-strong payroll and annual turnover approaching £3 million. On the editorial floor, where a 20strong team of race interpreters, writers and handicappers produce the raw material for the various racing publications and outlets. there is an atmosphere of scholarly endeavour and rigorous professionalism. It is backed up by a sense of fierce independence, fostered by Bull and underpinned by

an employee share-owning

scheme designed to thwart commercial predators.

The computer has been responsible for many changes in recent times, including the availability of Timeform on disc, although, significantly, the belief that handicapping is an art and not a science has precluded new technology from calculating horses' ratings. Next year could see Timeform on the Internet and the introduction of a service for Hong Kong's racing

mad population. But amid all the changes, the organisation's raison d'etre remains unchanged 50 years on. Everything that Phil Bull did was from the perspective of the punter. That is still the guiding principle." Geoff Greetham, a Timeform director, emphasised.

All of which begs the question: which horse should backers look out for as the 1997 Flat season gets under way? Entrepreneur, trained by Michael Stoute. according to Jim McGrath, the Channel 4 pundit and Timeform's best known face.

"He is the most gorgeous horse and has a classic pedigree. Most of Sadler's Wells's progeny don't shine at two, but he won a maiden very impressively and, given his trainer and connections, there is every possibility he will be a much stronger force this year." That, as Bull used to like saying, sounds like a bet with a capital B.



1.30 Seattle Alley, 2.05 Buckland Led. 2.40 Yellow Carl Evans: 3.45 Prince Buck. GOING: GOOD TO FIRM 1.30 NEWLEAF JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,361: 2m 110yd) (7 nunners) 1 5 ALLMANATE 28F D O'Briss 11-0....

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11-10 Buckland (ad., 3-1 Namical George, 9-2 Master Pangloss, 5-1 Fase Park, 16-1 Eau So Sloe, 33-1 Bright Sesson.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRADICES: A Tornell, 11 wisners from 36 amours, 30.5%; S i. Moore, 8 bron. 29, 27.6%; J Gifford, 9 bron. 44, 20.5%; D Grissell, 5 brom. 47, 10.6%. Only qualifiers.
JOCKEYS: D Styrme, 5 whites from 26 ridgs, 19,2%; A Dicken, 6 from 33, 18,2%; J R Kavasagh, 5 from 28, 13,2%, J A McCarthy, 3 from 24, 12,5%; D Gallagher, 9 from 73, 12,3%, Only qualifiers.

2.10 Kinnescash. 2.45 Classic Account. 3 Southampton. 3.50 Around The Gale. 4.25 Camp che Bay. 4.55 Selatan. 5.25 Arctic Fox.

going: good (good to firm in Places)

2.10 STAN CLARKE NOVICES HURDLE (£3;186: 2m 1f) (15 runners)

FLORID 8 (G) C Brooks (GAF 17 B Cambidge 5-1

C. TO CHETZHAM ZETTING HAMPICAL HOKDITE
(£2,025; 2m 110yd) (11)
1 3531 DERISBAY 12 (B.F.G.S) J Bridger 9-11-10 M Batchelor (7)
2 0009 MELERUM LASS 4 (V) Miss M Royland 9-11-6 Sary Lyops
3 0-53 SWINGING SIXTIES 8 6 L Moore 8-11-4
4 1F06 YELLOW ORASON 12 (S) 8 Peace 4-11-1 P Healey (3)
5 1043 SCRIFT 12 (CO.F.S) J Jentins 6-10-13 D Morris
6 3000 COOLEGALE 129 L Wells 11-10-8 L Aspell (3)
7 -05P CAVO GRECO 40 (F,S) J Joseph 8-10-7
8 0005 ALDWICK COLONNADE 10 (D.F.G) M Usher 10-10-5
With the Company of t
9 0210 FIUTH'S GAMBLE 8 (V,D,BF,G) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-3 J A McCentry
10 OO-P TAPESTRY ROSE 40 J Poelton 5-10-0 A Dictor
11 -OPO TIGANA 2 (V) Mts L Jeneil 5-10-0 K Gaute
2-1 Deristury, 4-1 Swinging Staties, 9-2 Restr's Garatie, 6-1 Script, 6-1 Yestow Dragon, 10-1 Alcheick Colomade, 16-1 Coolegain, 25-1 others,

	3.10 c	HRIS PYE 50TH BIRTHDAY NOVICES 317: 3m) (3)
	1 1290 [ITTLE MARTINA 10 (D.G.S) () Grissel 9-11-5_ JR
1	2 P-00° 1	ITTLE HARTINA 10 (D.G.S) 0 Grissel 9-11-5. JR IAPOLEON'S GOLD 17 (B) A Foster 7-11-4
İ] 3 23U0 ¥	MEE WINDY 28 (F.G.S) J Gillord 8-11-4

4-9 Wee Yflody, 9-4 Little Martins, 14-1 Napoleon's Gold.			
3.45 EDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Arnateurs: £1,123; 3m) (5) 1 -PSP COLONAL KELLY 8 (0,F.A.5) No. 11 Grissel 9-12-12			
C Vigors (5)			

(Anti	HEU TS	: £1,123; 3m) (5)
1	-bâb	COLONAL KELLY 9 (O.F.G.S) Nes 13 Galanda 9-12-12
2 3	形	PRO BONO 18 (F,S) A Mongan 7-12-12
5	P5/	FUR FOR FREE 13F (CD.F.S.S) Mas T HR 13-12-5 A HR (3)
5-2 A: Galt	ioce Bu	ck, 11-4 Ruo For Frae, 3-1 Colonial Kelly, 4-1 Pro Bono, 9-2 Loyal
		

1.00	
4.20 grame	HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,343; 2m 110yd)	(4)
1 4124 MARIES 14	•

1 2 3	4124 3131 5810 -104	MARRUS 14 (S) J. Gultond 7-12-U
		

	3.50 MILES MACADAM NO (£4,358; 3m 110yd) (9)
.15	1 1212 AROUND THE SALE 25 IC. BF. (2 2-21 CHOPWILL CURTAINS 115 IF 3 122P MONYMOSS 7 (6) Mis S Soil
De -	4 21F0 THE REVERSED BERT 9 (5) 6 5 F PONNOODS VALLEY 25 D No. 6 OD SENZILY BEAR 21 R STONGS 7 7 -202 MYSTIC ISLE 14 (5) N GAMERS
CIC	B COOL BECKY'S GIRL 16 R Sectoring

•	
on.	4.25 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB MARDEN
	CHASE (£3,696: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)
esy (7)	1 ZUF CAMPECHE BAY 16 6 Baiding 8-11-7

	CHIA	SE (S	3,696: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)	
	1		CAMPECHE BAY 16 6 Batching 8-11-7	_
1	·ż	2-38	CRANE HILL 61 (B) P Hobbs 7-11-7 W Maret	ė
·	. 3	-783	DANDIE 1439 12 (S) A Compil 9-11-7 D 1444	
	. 4	0.4	KORT ZEDOWARI 11 Mrs S Smith 7-11-7 R Weightstein (1
1	, 3	OPT'	LEDBURGAN 12 Miss P White 7-11-7	3
1	7	0447	STEEL CHIMAGE 1057P & Completon #11-7 Y FI	
1	8	CLUS	TUG YOUR FORELOCK 15 G Johason Heodrica 8-11-7	-
			Michael Brennan (3
1	10	200	DEE UGHT 24 G Richards 8-11-2	å

2.45 cross lanes hotel conditional

MANUE 19 SETTIMO UMANICIA, UNISUE	
£2,358: 2m 1f) (16)	(3
1 P114 PALACE OF GOLD 26 (BF.F.G) L Lungo 7-11-10 W Dowling (5)	
2 5020 ETERNAL CITY 16 (0.6) 6 Richards 6-11-10 R Barris 65)	
3 0060 NEVER SO BLUE 30 69 P Bradler 6-11-8 R Wilderson (20)	
4 3/33 RED MARCH HARE 172 J Havaet 6-10-11., C McCormack (5) 1	
5 ZZUZ NIGHT BOAT 3 W Chr 6-10-10	
6 515/ CLASSIC ACCOUNT 18F (6) J Evre 9-10-9 C Elliott (5)	
7 6-05 CUDOTRY 17 / Markin 6-10-8 Etherband 8 5330 STRIKE-A-POSE 37 (S) B Lieuethjo 7-10-7 G Lieu	
8 5890 STRIKE-A-POSE 37 (S) B-Lieuzihin 7-10-7 G Lie	
9 JUDO BUD'S BET 38 (F) Mass J Case 9-10-7 M Member (3)	•
10 -100 NORD LYS 37 (D.F) 8 Lienethy 6-10-3 Michael Branton	
11 DOGS STUL MERF 7 /B3 / Brown 4-16-1	
12 6050 LARROW SE Mrs A Manchion 6-10-0	
(2) A-rd (47962: 11m 20 A MMA (-10-07 [L0001 (2)]	
14 PO-0 BIT OF ROUGH 17 W Clay 7-10-0	
15 40/P REGAL JEST 42 B Murzar 7-10-0 N Horrocks (5) 1	9.3
18 PPO A BADGE TOO FAR 7 Mrs. L Williams 7-10-0 S Taylor (3)	84
3 Paterte di Rolli S.1 Steppi City R.1 Ninto Roul R.1 School Press 18.2 Name	

OF I O WILLIE! MANNUAGE UN	
(£4,879: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)	
1 -051 GENERAL PERSHBIG 25 (C.D.F.G.) D Mich	olson (1-12-0) R Johnston
2 42-5 CAMITHON 29 (D.S.S) T (Mady 7-12-0	A Dobble
3 5021 CLAUBRIAN CHÁLLÉNÉE 99 (D.F.G.S) TE	asianty 8-11-12 L Viyer
4 215- ANDERNATT 289 (C.O.G.S). J Marche 10-1 5 2320 SOUTH-AMPTON 10 (V.F.G.S) 6 Basing 7-	11-1 W. Marylini
5 2320 SOUTHAMPTON 18 (V,F,G,S) 6 Balding 7-	10-13 R Genet
6 P-01 FRICKLEY 21 (6.5) 6 Richards 11-10-10	
7 0632 DOLKOS 18 (D,S) 7 Caldwell 10-10-0	Michael Branco (3)
7-4 Friction 11-4 Condition Challenge 5-1 Several Part	binn R-1 niban:

Through the Additional controlling on occupy to an article of the same
COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRANSPS: D Micholson, 14 winners from 43 names, 32.6%; C Brooks, 5 from 17, 29.4%; G Richelds, 23 kmg 91, 25.3%; P Hobbs, 4

from 19, 21.1%; D Gandollo, 6 from 30, 20.0% JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 27 wiscors from 81 rides, 33.3%; A Dobbis 6 hora 30, 20.0%; W Marston, 8 from 45, 17.8%; R Guest, 6 from 35 17.1%; S Wymae, 9 from 84, 10.7%, L Wyer, 3 from 29, 10.3%.

4,5	J0, J	(9) (באַטור ווו
1	1212	APOUND THE GALE 28 (C.BF.G.S) D Gapdotto 6-12-0 R Deamon
2	2-21	CHOPMELL CURTAINS 115 (F.S.) T Eastern 7-11-11 L.W.
3	122P	MONYMOSS 7 (6) Mis S South 6-11-11
4	21R)	THE REVERBED BERT 9 KG) 6 Bellieu 9-11-11
5	F	POXWOODS VALLEY 25 () Micholann 8-11-5 R Johns
6	. 00	1241/21 Y BEAR 21 P Strongs 7-11-5 S Who
7	-302	MYSTAC ISLE 14 (S) N Gasalen 7-11-5
8	003U	BECKY'S CERL 16 R Stotherton 7-11-0 T E
9	4P/F	MONTY ERCOMPOSITIONS 33 R Law 8-11-0
A	and Th	e Gale, 3-1 Chopwell Cortains, 7-1 Monymoss, Mystic Isle, 10-1 T

Ξ.	LV	MOUTH MEDI HARME OF TR MANIFU
A	SF (S	3,696: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)
1	2UF	CAMPECHE BAY 16 6 Batching 8-11-7
2	2-36	CRANE HILL 61 (B) P Hotels 7-11-7 W Marston
3	-P83	DANDE BUP 12 (S) A Carell 9-11-7 D Walsh
ì	Ì	FORT ZEDOAAN 11 Mrs S Smith 7-11-7 R Wildeson (7)
Ł	200	1 CTO DESCRIPTION 11 MAS & SHARE P-1(-) Annual IN WINDOW [7]
ĭ	a.	LEDBURSAN 12 Miss P White 7-11-7
6	40	LITTLE NOTICE 119 (S) T Forster 6-11-7 S Wynne
7	044/	STEEL CHIMES 1057P 8 Cambidge 6-11-7 Y Bey
8	GLUS	TUG YOUR FORELOCK 15 G Johnson Houghton 8-11-7
		Michael Brensan (3)
a	Ď	DEE UGHT 24 G Richards 8-11-2 A Dabbin
3		NEE COMIT OF A LINE OF 11-5 VIOLEN
Q	- 000	LADY ROSEBURY 40 R Price 7-11-2 T Jenks

4.55 LIGHTWOOD GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE

5.	25 T RA	BANGOR-ON-DEE MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT CE (\$1,560: 2m 1) (18)
1	- 4	ARCTIC FOX 28 Miss H Knight 5-11-10 Mr A Windle (7)
2	_	DAKUTA III D Michelson 6-11-10
. 3	. 0	EAGLE DANCER 14 Lady Heates 5-11-10 Michael Brennan (3)
4		GALESPIAN G Richards 5-11-10 Pr Rome (7)
5		MACCINGANI SILLE VY Jests 5-11-10
6		HEXCRY BALBOA Miss ? White 5-11-10 Gav Lewis (3)
7	2	SHROPSHEE RALE 28 S Reposition 6-11-10 O Remove 65
8	_	STAR ADVENTURE / Brace 5-11-10 Miss E James
9	0	BE IN SPACE 43 Mess P Whole 6-11-5 Southie Mitchell (3)
10	Ō	NERVANA PRINCESS 10 B Presse 5-11-5 J Mogford (7)
11	-	OUTRAGEOUS AFFAIR A James 5-11-5 6 Lee (3)
12		RAMELLION I Brown 5-11-5 Mr A Brown
13	884	SEE MORE AMERICS 686 A James 6-11-5 E Hestrand (3)
14	,	GO CAHOOTS A Terrell 4-11-2 C Res
15	4	THE LIGHTMAKER 28 S Exte 4-11-2 D J Karantoh (5)
	- 7	LIST CRIMENTAL EN 2 DETR 4-145 " DIS PROBLEM (3)
16	U	DRKY DORA 15 J Crespuel 4-10-11 H T Egan (7)
47.		MATTER MEDIA Dellar A. 10.11 C. Marines Co.

Eyre celebrates Doncaster double

LES EYRE saddled a double at Doncaster yesterday to continue his good start to the 1997 Turf Flat season. The Hambleton trainer, who was on the mark with Brutal Fantasy on Thursday, took his score to three in two days,

courtesy of Onefourseven and Kira. But Barrel Of Hope, the most fancied of Eyre's four runners, failed to make the frame in the day's feature race - the Worthington

Onefourseven, twice successful on the allweather last November, produced a determined effort to land the Town Moor Handicap over 24 miles. Sent to the front by Tyrone Williams two furlongs out, the four-year-old was headed by Noufari soon after but fought back inside the last to win by 14 lengths. Kira, ridden by Roddy Lappin, had 22 lengths to spare over Satio in the Mandine-

Solocomb Handicap over six furlongs.

PENNYBRYN J Bys 4-10-11

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Doncaster Going: good to firm

2.0.1 (Corr.) 1645. 2.05 (2m.2) 1, Onefourseven († Williams, 9-2); 2, Nouteri (11-2); 3, Master Food-broker (8-1), Magic Combination 11-4 lav. 10 nat. 141, 81, J Eyre Tote 15.40; £1 80, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £10.80 Tho: £32.00. CSF: £26.05. Tricast £173.02.

S.10 (1m) 1, Artful Dane (M Roberts, 10-1); 2, Shinerola (8-1 fay); 3, Sharp Shuffle (10-1); 4, Sandmoor Chambray (14-1), 23 ran. %1, hd. M Heaton-Elis Tote: £13.70; £3.90 £2.60; £2.20; £4.50. DF: £37.00. Tric: £111.20. CSF: £71.78. Tricast £786.48.

Incast £785-48.
3.40 (im 25 60yd) 1, Milthek (M Hills, 11-4, Richard Evens's nap); 2, Nambucca (11-1); 3, Hentage (8-13 brd), 8 nan. 4(, 25), 18 Hills, Toice 2.40; 51.10, 51.70, 51.10, DF: £13.80. CSF: 528.58.

Placepot: £135.90. Quaripot: £16.20.

Newbury Going: good to limi (chase course) good (hurdies) 1,50 (3m 110yd holle) 1 Ready Money Creek IJ Osborne 11-2: 2 Aposium Equiname (11-4 fav), 3 Menesoriic (7-2: 14 ran 1-4), 14 to Sherwood Tote \$4.80, \$1.30, \$1.40, \$1.90 DF \$6.70 Tino \$29.50 CSF \$18.85

2.25 (3m ch) 1 Linton Rocks (8 Powell, 6-6 lav), 2 Hatcham Boy (11-8) 3 Amber Valley (17-2) 5 ran 2, 2+1 T Thomson Jones Tote 52.20 £1.30 £1.20 DF 52.20, CSF £2.79 2.55 (2m 5) holie) 1 Ourni Eagle (Jame Evans. 8-1) 2. Lively Encounter (15-8 fav), 3. Foxoes Led (9-1), 19 ran NR. Ever Blessed. Relikander 2, hd M Pipe Tote 28 10: 52 10, 51 40, 53 00 DF 512 50 Tho: 519 40 CSF 519 89

3.25 (3m ch) 1. Fox Pointer (Mr R Thornton, 7-4 fav), 2. Ardbrennan (100-30), 3. Ryming Cuplet (2-1) 7 ran 18), 21) Mars I, Evans Tote 22-50 £1 40, £1 50 DF £5 40 CSF £7 16 24.00 (2m 4l ch) 1, Terso (T J Murphy, 9-4); 2, Change The Act (9-2), 3, High Attaude (2-1 law), 5 nan. NR Master Boston, 254, 12, M Pipe, Tote 22.90; £1 60, £2.40. DF £6.70 CSF £11.33.

4.35 (2m 110yd hole) I, Red Raje (J Osbome, 2-1), 2, Fairly Sharp (13-8 tay) 3, Province (10-1) 4 ran, 3 44, 161 P Mitchell, Tote, £2.80, DF £1.80 CSF £5.27

Cash Ci Santa (1.5 Cash Ci Anshen (J. Supple, 5-4 (2v), 2. Soci Classic (5-1); 3, Cash Ci Santa (5-1), 12 (2v. 22), 14 May A Sambara (be 5.1 7: \$1.10, \$2.00 DF: \$10.50 Teo \$7.80 CSF \$6.53 2.15 (2m 11 ch) 1, American Hero (B Storey 9-1), 2 Mr Knoet (2-1), 3, Reel Tono (7-4 la) 8 ran, 5, 2, 9 Alfan Tote: C6-40; 13.0; 13.0; 51.50, DF: £20.90, CSF £23.40

CS LS 47 (2) mbs) 1, Monnais Forts (J Ration, 7-1); 2 ingletorian (4-1 fast; 3, Our Rober (10-1) 9 ran, NR: Geing Public, 34, 5 J Adam Tote 17 60, 22 00, 51 60, 23 00, DF, 126 20, Trio, 51 650, CSF: 531.44. Trotati (252 67 2.15 (3m i) ch) 1, Son Of kis (P Niven, 2-1 [-kay] 2, Coque Lane (4-1) 3, Tighter Budger (12-1) What Fethe 2-1 p-kay 5 ran. 1) 13. Mis M Peeeley Tcbr 22-20, £1.10, £2 10. DF £5.70, CSF 59-25.

3.50 (3m 41 ch) 1, Spanne Ref M Brachume, 1-2 lan, 2, Royal Jester (3-1), 3, Orange Regusa (11-2), 5 ran, 7, 1-4, J Hughes, Totar El SO, El 10, DF, El 60, CSP, 62.50 4.20 (2m 8f 110)rt Indie) 1, Casah Box (N Smith, 12-1); 2, Major Harris (12-1); 3, No Gimmotis (9-2) Derayrie 6-5 fav. 15 ran. 1 M, 3) T Cart. Tone \$18.90; \$2.90, \$2.90, \$2.00 DF \$47.50. Tho: \$289.40. CSF: \$152.49.

1102 vs. 4.50 2m 6: 110yd hdie) 1, Minter Ross (A Debbn 7-4 lav), 2 Just One Guestion (6-1), 3 Grossmor (7-2), 14 sm. 6, S. J Johnson Toan 52 70, 61 40, 5200, 51.10, DF 514 90 Tro 527 40 CSF, 511 07.



Jukes has to miss Llangibby

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

JAMIE JUKES, the national men's champion, will not be riding this weekend after a fall at Erw Lon last Sunday. Jukes said: "I'm bruised but it's not serious and I should be back

The Welshman's decision not to risk aggravating his injury has been made easier by the news that Bert Lavis. Jukes's main source of rides, has been forced to shut down his yard because of a virus.

Their absence diminishes the card at the Llangibby meeting today, although Pip Jones will be in action and could ride Lucky Ole Son, who became her hundredth winner in points last Sunday.

Chilipour misses the men's open because of firm ground while Riverside Boy is an absentee for the same reason, but also because of a bereave ment in the Crow family. Sheila Crow's mother, Alice Edwards, 91, owner of the good mare Scally Muire, died on Thursday.

The Crows have no runners today, but will take a strong team to the Sir Watkin William Wynn's meeting tomorrow. Stepaside Boy could prove the pick.

The ground may be drying out but it will certainly be fresh for the Hurworth meeting, which last raced at Hutton Rudby 13 years ago. Little used turf is also on offer at Siddington where the Vale Of White Horse meeting is the sole fixture each season. Julian Pritchard has hopes of a winner on Bishops Island.

Peter Craggs takes over from the suspended Andrew Parker on Sayin Nowt at the Duke of Buccleuch's fixture. If Hagar and Todcrag take on the mare, a Catterick hunter chase winner, this fixture could stage the race of the day.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Cembridgeshins at Horsehaeth, 4m west of Hewerhall (first rece 1.30); Crawley & Horseham, Perham, 4m S of Putcorough (1.30); Duke of Buccleuch's, Friers Hespib, W of Kelso (1.00); Hurworth at Hutton Rudby, 4m W of Statesley (12.30); Lamerton, Klworthy, 2m N of Testsock (1.00); Lameghop, Howick, 2m W of -Chepstow (12.30); Mendip Farmers, Casile of Contort, 2m N of Priddy (1.00); WM-1. Scidington 2m S of

EXCLUSIVE OFFER AND COMPETITION

Win a luxury I fed shower worth 12.000

Times readers have the chance to win a hixury fitted shower from Advanced Showers International. The shower, which includes a Showerlux pivot door made from tempered safety glass with concealed door fittings to maintain good standards of hygiene, is worth £2,000... Built to the same exacting standards as an ocean going racing yacht, a patented system eliminates leaks, even with a power shower. You also get a Mira Excel thermo static shower mixer which has an automatic shut downshould the hot or cold water fail. For information about Advanced Showers International please call 01483 295030. HOW TO ENTER

Phone our hotline 0839 444 546 with your answer to: Where are Miele kitchens made?

al Italy b) Spain c) Germany

The line is open until midnight tonight. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Normal TNI rules apply. 0839 calls cost 50p per minute.



FREE tickets for the BBC Good Homes Show

Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won

The Times offers you a FREE ticket, worth at least £1.50, for the BBC Good Homes Show at the NEC. Birmingham, from April 9-13. Send three differently numbered tokens with a stamped sae, marked on the front which day you wish to attend, and the form below before Thursday March 27. You will be entered into a prize draw for a £10,000 Miele kitchen.

As well as imported sof these for the home, you can see live performances of some of the BBC's popular shows in the Lloyds Bank Insurance Effect Celebrity Theatre Call Dizt 707 4000 being book theatre and show admission tickets.

If you missed any tokens you. can enter the draw by sending a posteard, marked Prize Draw to the address on the form below by March 27

THE BBC GOOD HOMES SHOW TOKENA

HE TIMES FREE TICKETS TO	THE BEC OCCE
	THE BBC GOOD HOMES SH
ree differently numbered tokens to this form with a	IT WOULD HE DISC EVOLUTION

amped sae, clearly marked trend. Send it to: The Times	pered tokens to this form with a long the front which day you wish to specified Good Homes Show, PO Box one free ticket per sae and three aliability.	
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Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/C	Other	
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Postcorie	Day tel	

	IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS: Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box) [15-24
	Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?
1	Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (24 copies a month)?

RACING: RAMSDEN-TRAINED HOPE HAS RIGHT CREDENTIALS FOR DONCASTER'S LINCOLN HANDICAP

Hawksley Hill can scale the heights

RACING CORRESPONDENT

JACK RAMSDEN, one of the most successful punters in the land, is not given to shouting from the rooftops about farcied horses but he believes Hawksley Hill has a cracking chance in the Worthington Lincoln at Doncaster today.

Trained by his wife, Lynda, who sent out High Premium to win this mile handicap in 1993. Hawksley Hill did not stop progressing last season,

AICHARD EVANS

Nap: HAWKSLEY HILL (3.40 Doncaster) Next best: Mile High (5.15 Doncaster)

Richard Evans landed a 40-1 double with his nap, Mithak (11-4), and Artiul Dane (10-1) at Doncaster

winning the first of six handicaps on his seasonal

Two of those successes came over Newmarket's straight mile, including the final of the Rothmans series when he was value for much more than his comfortable length and a half victory, having had to tack over to the stands' rail.

Indeed, had he enjoyed a better draw in his previous race, the Cambridgeshire, he would have gone very close. His progressive form and physique suggest he could make up into an even better four-year-old and the prepara- a very good place where we tion for the first big handicap

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

2.00 GREY FRURS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 CRAIGIEVAR (nap).

2.00 Classy Cleo

2.30 Rainbow Rain

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

(2-Y-0: £3,488: 5f) (14 runners)

3.40 TUMBLEWEED RIDGE.

3.40 Sky Dome, 4.15 Sheer Danzig.

THUNDERER



The blinkered Artful Dane lands the Worthington Spring Mile Handicap at Doncaster yesterday

of the new Turf Flat season increases confidence.

"Hawksley Hill has done plenty of work and looks great. We have not had a racecourse gallop, but there is can take them to and he has

3.40 Hunters Of Brora

4.45 Ventura Capitalisi

4.15 Sheer Danzig

RESING OF THE MODIA (Mass I Regis) R Harron 8-5. Pat Eddery
LIMBOSTONE (Select Partners) C Dayer 8-4. D R MicCabe
SRTIS (B Walters Claying) M Channon 6-4. Paul Eddery
MARIGARIET'S (JANCER (6 Bath) C Smith 6-3. A Clark

MARIGARET'S DANDEN (S Barry C, Smith 6-3. A Claim
MR FLIND SWITCH (L Award) D Histories 8-3. kma Wands (7)
MOBLE SAJA (Ryedela Associates) T Excestry 8-3. John
CLASSY CLED (Mars A Kane) R Harmon 9-1. Dane C'Ment
CARDL GRIMES (J Brimes) J Moore 7-13. R Firench (7)
BANGERICHAM BLADE (Crown Soled) K hory 7-12. Martin Dwyer (3)
ORBEL GIRL (D Matoney) P Evens 7-12. J F Egen

1996: KNASSINGER 8-6 T Quinn (9-2) M.Chennon 12 cm

been going really well," Ramsden said yesterday. bustle of big handicaps in big "There have been no setbacks and the preparation has

A low draw has been an gone smoothly. He looks pretadvantage in recent years and, ty sure to run well and you can with La Petite Fusee, Barossa ride a race on him. Basically, Valley and Whittle Rock he never runs a bad race. He's drawn towards the far side,

a tough horse and likes the bustle of big handicaps in big there should be plenty of pace for Hawksley Hall in stall six. An interesting statistic is that four of the past ten winners -Stone Ridge, Our Rita, Fact Finder and Star Of A Gunner - have all been drawn six. The form of Kuala Lipis's

PROSPECTOR'S COVE best ellard beat Prince Of My Heart 141 in 7-numer conditions cast at Kerngton (1 in 2), good), Agr 96, MAJOR CHANGE 41 2nd of 8 to Albaha in handlarp at Wolvechampton (AW, 1 in 47), SHEER DAILES best effort 1 141 2nd of 20 to Better Offer in handlarp at Ascol (1 in

4.45 CAMMIDGE TROPHY

TRAINERS

N Babbage R Armstrong Miss G Nafle J Gosden P Cole 9 Hills

(Listed race: £12,275: 6f) (8 runners)

4.15 MIDLAND COPYING DONCASTER SHIELD

BETTING: 11-10 Witaeander, 7-2 Prospector's Cove, 9-2 Sheer Danzin, 6-1 Desart Mountain, 10-1 others.

| Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | Common | C

1996: FIRE DOME 4-9-2 R Hughes (11-1) R Hannon B rat.

FORM FOCUS

PASSION FOR LIFE 11/91 2nd of 15 to Russian
Revitzi in fisied race at Newmaniet (61, good).
VENTURE CAPITALIST best ethnic for 7th of 30 to 16 Cossal Bladt in bandicay at Goodwood (61, good to 16 min) on perultimate start, with ASTRAC (18th warse of) 94/1 18th. ASTRAC best Linears 1/1 in Island race at Evry (61 very soll) EASY DOLLAR less effort mech 2nd of 16 to Leytonger or Rised

Selection: ROYAL APPLAISE

Selection: ROYAL APPLAISE

SETTING, 7-4 Passeon For Life, 5-2 Royal Appliance, 5-1 Venture Capitalist, 6-1 Activit, 8-1 others.

5.15 SELBY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,525: 6f) (8 runners)

BETTING: 2-1 Male High, 9-4 Cadeous Cher. 5-1 The Gay Fox, 7-1 Wild Sky, 8-1 Prominent, 10-1 others. 1996: GREEN BARRIES 9-0 J Wester (4-1 law) M Johnston 15 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

Racecard number: So-figure form (F — tell P — pulled up. U — unceated rider. B — brought down: S — stipped up. R = refused. D — desputabled. Horse's reame. Dept since last custory: F if fluit (B — bitaliser: V — stoor H — broof. E — Eyesheld. C — course wanter. D — course and distance. Private Hardscappes's rating.

3.55 Final novices hurible (Div II: £3,148; 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

D Holland L Dettori M Hills C Ruster W Ryan S Sanders

1996; JUYUSH 4-9-4 W Casson (5-1) B Hills 6 nan

FORM FOCUS

1/100- PROSPECTOR'S COVE 265 (G,S) (Saspern Recing) J Peans: 4-9-0 G Barn

CONDITIONS STAKES (£7,309: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

term has worked out well and the Paul Cole-trained runner ran a sound trial on the allweather a fortnight ago. However, a high draw may be a disadvantage to him, along with Kala Sunrise, Rockforce and Pusey Street Girl. At around 9-1, Hawksley Hill looks worth a bet.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, the appearance of Mile High in the Selby Maiden Stakes (5.15) will appeal to backers who prefer the shorter-priced good thing" variety of bet.

On his second and final start last term, the Mick Channon-trained runner did particularly well at Goodwood to finish half a length behind In Command, the subsequent Dewhurst Stakes winner, with five lengths back to the third. Channon is in no doubt that

the Puissance colt is "very good indeed" and although he holds a 2,000 Guineas entry the trainer feels today's trip of six furlongs is ideal. It will be a disappointment if he fails to get off the mark today.

Newbury is one of Nicky Henderson's favourite haunts and he looks to have every chance of improving on his good track record by winning the second division of the Final Novices' Hurdle (3.55) with

Classy Lad. The winner of three races in New Zealand, including twice over ten furiongs last year, he finished 13 lengths fifth behind Sanmartino on his hurdling debut at Kempton four week ago. That form looks better than anything else on show.

41, good) on penulturale start. DESERT MOUN-TAIR 51 4th of 8 to Song Ol The Sword in condi-hore race at Reccommon (im 4f, pool to firm). WILAWANDER 1114 56t of 11 to Stanton or group 1 St Lager here (the 61 32yd, good to firm). Selection: PRUSPECTOR'S COVE

Hamilton Silk primed for smooth success

NEWBURY

1.15: Valiant Warrior is the best-handicapped horse judged on last season's form but has been out of sorts this term, like many of his stablemates, and this is his first attempt at three miles. Pyr Four ran well behind Church Law on his first start for Graham McCourt since leaving Ireland, but is not always the best of jumpers and these stiff fences may find him out. With Darren The Brave Illb out of the handicap, the in-form Senor El Betrutti looks the safest bet. He will relish the small

1.45: Hamilton Silk was just getting into the picture in the County Hurdle when a mistake two out ended his chance. Previously, he had been a good second to Make A Stand here in the Tote Gold Trophy and Martin Pipe's runner should have the race run to suit with the front-running Kadastrof in the field, Forestal has shown improved form since being ridden with more restraint, and won a competitive handicap at Cheltenham before finishing a good fifth in the Imperial Cup. He repre-

sents the main danger.

field and fast ground.

2.15: Fiddling The Facts looks best-in at the weights but all her form is on soft ground. She was a shade disappointing behind Spring Double here three weeks ago. Potter's Gale was runner-up to Boardroom Shuffle at Cheltenham two starts ago, which gives David Nicholson's runner sound claims. However, Lucia Forte, proven over the trip and on fast ground, is the percentage call. Kim Bailey's runner came from nearly last to win a decent contest at Wincanton last month and winners have come out of that race.

DONCASTER **CHANNEL 4**

3.00: Neville Callaghan has always rated Danetime and the 2,000 Guineas entrant is just preferred to Handsome

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Ridge and Craigievar. The winner of a Newcastle maiden on fast ground last summer, he recorded an even better effort in a fast-run race for the Houghton Stakes won by Crimson Tide. Craigievar won a competitive Nottingham nursery by five lengths but is not sure to see out this mile. Handsome Ridge beat a better-fancied stablemate in an end-ofseason Doncaster maiden. The Indian Ridge colt does not need to find much improvement to be involved in the finish.

3.40: see left.

4.15: Air Quest had classic pretensions after winning at Newbury early last season. but returned very sore after running in the Chester Vase and was not seen again. He may need this run after such a long lay-off. Wilawander, fourth in the Queen's Vase and sixth in the St Leger, would appreciate further and Sheer Danzig is preferred. The winner of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown last summer, he subsequently ran even better in defeat. Suited by today's trip and ground, the Robert Armstrong-trained runner won first time out in 1995.

4.45: Royal Applause, win-ner of the Middle Park Stakes and unbeaten as a two-year-old, disappointed last term but had an interrupted campaign. Barry Hills's runner could make up into a top sprinter this season. Astrac prefers softer conditions underfoot and Easy Dollar and Passion For Life look bigger dangers.

RICHARD EVANS

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, first race 2.20), Haxham (2.00), Ludlow (2.10) TUESDAY: Newcastle (2.35), San-down Park (2.15), Southwell (2.25)

THURSDAY: Leicester (2 10), Lingfield Park (AW, 2.30), Musselburgh (2 20) FRIDAY: No meetings SATURDAY: Haydock Park (BBC, 115), Kempton Park (C4, 140), Wolverhampton (AW, 700), Carlisle (205), Newton Abbot (1.30), Plumpton (2.25), Towcester (2.20)

Flat meetings in bold

RACELINE DONCASTER 101 NEWBURY 102 **BANGOR** 103 203 LINGFIELD 104 120 | 220 IRISH FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168 IRISH LOTTERY RESULT 0930 162 441

WEDNESDAY: Catterick Bridge (2.20), Folkestone (2.10), Ascot (BBC, 2.00).

Binoculars! FREE POCKET SPORTS BINOCULARS FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking

£40 or more, today, using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards. RING TODAY BET TODAY *0800 44 40 40* *Free pocket sports binoculars will (be sent within 7 to 10 days of your first bet being placed.

25/1 Sabot

50/1 lamus

25/1 Stone Ridge

33/1 Barossa Valley

33/1 Pater Noster

40/1 Hazard A Guess

HORTHINGTON, ANDLA HYGAP 1 mile, Doncaster 3.40pm, Live on CH4 TV.

8/1 Alamein 25/1 Defined Feature 8/1 Hawksley Hill 25/1 Hunters of Brora 9/1 Tumbleweed Ridge 25/1 Kala Sunrise 25/1 Neuwest

10/1 Grand Musica 10/1 Kuala Lipis 10/1 New Century

10/1 Sky Dome 12/1 Roving Minstrel 16/1 Rockforce

16/1 Russian Music 20/4 Carburton 20/1 Whittle Rock

50/1 La Petité Fusee 50/1 Pusey Street Girl Each-Way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3,4 Prices subject to fluctuation Available up to First Show. Tatts Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner ~ no bet.

PLACE ONLY BETTING Available on selected Worthington Lincoln runners.

It's better than 1/4 the odds a place.

14/1 lamus 9/1 Barossa Valley 9/1 Pater Noster 14/1 La Petite Fusee 12/1 Hazard A Guess 14/1 Pusey Street Girl

Above prices on horses to leash in first 4, available up to First Show, Place only betting available only on these horses. Prices subject to fluctual CREDIT AND DEBIT OFFICES OPEN FROM 9.00AM TODAY

LATEST COOKS ON VIEW IN THE TV TEXT - Telegram CH PROVINCEND

TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892 WILLIAM HILL RULE, APPLY,

3.00 gainsborough spring conditions stakes 1 (3-Y-0: £5,840: 1m) (12 runners) (5) 152330- PELHAM 156 (F.G) (D Lucie-Smith) R Hannon 9-3 51- MUSALSAL 144 (D,G) (M A) 1,6xxxxxxx) B Hills 8-13 __..... 411- CRARGEVAR 142 (F.S.) (D Resent) J Farshare 8-11 D Harrison 131210- JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 124 (C.F.G.S) K McAuldle 8-11 J F Ega 123923 MILLROY 17 (6) (Earls of R Baldeson) P Kelleway 8-11 X Fallon 02421- POLAR FLIGHT 133 (CD.5) (Maddeham Partners) M Johnston 8-11 J Weaver 3-1 Handsome Redge, 4-1 Musaisal, 5-1 Polar Flight, 11-2 Danethre, 6-7 Indian Spark, 12-1 1996: ACHARME 8-11 S Doyle (7-2) C Britain S ran FORM FOCUS DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1995: STONE RIDGE 4-6-7 Date O'Nest (33-1) R Harron 24 san FORM FOCUS

POSEDON best imporette 11 im 8-numer incaden at San Son (61, goods). DANETIME best effort best indian Brave 1141 in 5-numer marken at Newcastle (61, good) on pesudianse start. FOOT BATTALLON best Sabot 151 in 6-numer constitues care at Wid-vertampton (AV), 1 im 100yd- HANDSONE RIDGE beat Manth Chand 11 to 20-number meaden here (71, soft) MUSALSAM heat Kide Rhea 214 in 16-number meiden at Leisester (111, good) POLAR FLIGHT beat Soverani 44 in 16-number manden over course NORTHINGTON LI (£42,955; 1m) (24 runners) 401 (11) 222320- RUSSIAN MUSIC 149 (F) (Several risasen) Mass S Felleway 4-9-10 D Holland 9 BETTING: 4-1 Sats, 5-1 Rising Of The Moon, 6-1 Captalo Brady, 7-1 O' Higgins, 8-1 Classy Cleo, 9-1 others. 412 (18) 006401- NALA SUNRUSE 164 (D.F.G.) (A Maeditom) C Smath 4-8-6. 413 (8) 160610- WHITTLE ROCK 203 (F.G.) (Bay Horse Racing) Mrs M Reveley 414 (21) 5416-4 KUALA LIPIS 14 (D.5) (A Smath P Coll) 4-8-6 (B) 180610- WMTTLE ROCK 203 (F.G) (Bay Horse Racing) Mrs. M Reveley 4-8-6 K Darley (21) \$416-4 KUALA LIPIS 14 (D.G) (A Stati) P Cole 4-6-6 T Outen (13) 4/31163- ALAMEIN 260 (B.F.G.) (H. De Krasilomsch) W Hagges 4-8-5 K Fallon 415 (20) 11015; ROCKFORE 590 (0.7); S. Marchin M. Cramons 9-8-5. Pal Endlary
417 (4) 1/50003 TURASLEWEED RODGE 143 (8.F.5); 2 Meetan 4-8-5. M. Teibbuth
418 (24) 0013- PUSEY STREET GRIZ, 275 (G); (C. Zalos); M. Booley
4-8-5. R. Perlman
419 (14) 051001- HAZARO A GUESS 163 (C.F.R.S.) D Nichols; 7-9-4. Ionna, Winnish
420 (2) 210210- NEUWEST 217 (D.F) (F. Green) N. Walker 5-8-3. C. Rooter BETTING: 9-1 Hautoley Hull 9-1 Alarman 10-1 Grand Musica huald Lipis New Century. Sky Dome, Tumbleweb Ridge 12-1 Royang Marchell 16-1 Foorierse Russen Music 20-1 Cestumon, Whistle Red. 25-1 Others

RUSSIAN MUSIC best effort fall and of 14 to Prince Bates in appenhoe conditions rate at Ascot (I'm good) or parallemete start ROWING MINISTREL best effort about 25-1 3 of 14 to 1 areas in handicap at Mentanted (I'm good) farm). Apr 35 HAWNSLEY RBL best Hop Premium 194 in 35 HAWNSLEY RB

2.15 HOECHST ROUSSEL VET PANACUR EBF MARES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Final £10,502 2m 5f) (11 numers)

BBC1 ## PARTUPLIAN TENDRALE (Films 11 Out 20 201 31) (11 Tenuests)

2-2122 POTTER'S GALE 35 (Fi.G. S) U Forest D Nactockon 5-12-0. Mr R Thanton (5)

2-142 FIDDUNG THE FACTS 21 (8): 5) (Mr.E Roberts) N Henderson 6-11-10 M A Firstparial

3-P15-21 ROMNEN TA QUEEN 16 (07 S) (Acceptable 101 O Sherropol 8-11-8

1-13541 LUDIA FORTE 44 (6) (Miss. 14 name) P Basiley 6-11-8

2-3-0213 RIVER 8AY 52 (S) (Piers acod Racog) Miss. H Amphi 6-11-5

3-3041 FANTASY LINE 24 (S) (The Sun Porters of Header 1-1-2

3-3041 FANTASY LINE 24 (S) (The Sun Porters Club) J Howard Johnson 7-10-12

A Thomson 85

P31-010 QUEY DAY'S 24 (G.S) (The Sun Porters Club) J Howard Johnson 7-10-12

A S Smith 89

52-0002 LOCH NA KEAL 10 (S Amber) C Mollock 5-10-0

C Llewellym 85

CAPPOD JUY FOR LIFE 45 (The Equate Club) R Savage 8-10-0

X Alexand (7) 92 Long handicap Joy Fox Life 3-15

BETTING: 9-4 Potters Case 4-1 Flidding The Facts, 5-1 konvekta Queen 6-1 Fantacy Line, 7-1 Lucia Forte, 8-1 River Bay 10-1 Gaye Fame 1,1-1 others 1996 OATIS ROSE 6-10-0 P Carbony (33-1) M Shoppard 19 ran FORM FOCUS

POTTER'S GALE best ellon 11-1 and of 12 to distraction Studie in handcap heath at Chehenliam (2m 11, good) on penultimate start FIDDLING
THE FACTS 2:-1 2nd of 13 to Sporag Double in
south ADMNEKTA QUEEN best Lady High Sheriff 51
on nowice hundle at Towards 12th 51 soin LUCIA

FORTE best Lady Peta 14th in nowice hundle at WandWandanion Lucia in 90 Scoranded in nowice hundle at Wandsoil NORMEKTA QUEEN best Lady High Sheriff 51
on nowice hundle at Towards at Cartiste
Line 31 110-x1, suith on nowice hundle at Wandliam 11 10-x1, suith on nowice hundle at Wandliam 12 to Scoranded in nowice hundle at Wandliam 12 to Scoranded in nowice hundle at Wandliam 13 to Sporag Double in nowice hundle at Wandliam 12 to Scoranded in nowice hundle at Wandliam 13 to Sporag Double in
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2.50 FINAL NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1 53,169 2m 110yd) (19 runners) DU FINAL NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1 53,169 2m 110yd) (19 runners)

066 BALLYRANTER 49 P Byrnes M Hammond 9-11-7
0 BON LOCA 50 (Mas Headen Prof) J Sewies 5-11-7.
0 BON LOCA 50 (Mas Headen Prof) J Sewies 5-11-7.
1 Hanny
000-009 DON'T (MIND IF I 00 68 (8) (Mis J Addressi P Richer 6-11-7.
2-45 GET REAL 22 (Power Heat-Teatment) N Herberson 6-11-7.
3-5 NEBN BOD 12 is Sew) Mis L Rectauct 11-7.
3-6 NEBN BOD 12 is Sew) Mis L Rectauct 11-7.
3-7 NEBN BOD 12 is Sew) Mis L Rectauct 11-7.
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3-9 PERN FOLLY (Loca Cooper R Rown 6-11-7)
3-9 PERN FOLLY (Loca Cooper R Rown 6-11-7)
3-9 PERN FOLLY (Loca Cooper R Rown 6-11-7)
4-7 REPARTIS 215F (Mrs. D Backburn) P Wester 6-11-7
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4-7 REPARTIS 215F (Mrs. D Backburn) P Wester 6-11-7
5-265-55 SWAM STREET 11 (BF) (Samelan Backburn) P Wester 6-11-7
5-1-7 REPARTIS 215F (Mrs. D Backburn) P Wester 6-11-7
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5-1-7 REPARTIS 215F (Mrs. D Backburn) P Wester 6-11-7
5-1-7 REPARTIS 215F (Mrs. D Backburn) P BETTING: 11-4 Song Of the Sword 4-1 Judiny 6-1 Get Fee 4-1 microsis 10-1 Tanagon, Peers Folly, 12-1

1996 DREAM RIDE 6-11-7 A Duramon, 15-2 fees D Nightelson 12 ran 3.20 MARCH NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,493 2m 4i) (7 nunnersi 11982 BAMBETS CHOICE 15 (5) (d) Young R Aire 1 11-15
160642 SPRING TO GLORY 7 (F.G) (4 Symbol P Recent 10-11-10)
P20111 RED BRANCH 4 (D.F.G) (6 Stangary 1 Mag 5-11 of for)
350150 KDDS PROMISE 7 (F.G) (6 Warner 0.5 of recent 6 10-11
00-005 MISSIC CLASS 15 (Mr. R Potacy (7 Brown 6 10-6)
PPS6P40 LAGHAM LAD 43 (this Single Potacy (7 Brown 6 10-6)
0-502 R0013 N ALL 40 (Mr. 1 Trees) 3 Sartin, 7-10 (1 Mr R Thomason (5) Bib R Powel ~
I J Murphy 92
I Dascombe (3) 92
D Gallagher ~
S McKed ~
R Greene (3) BETTING, E-1 Rec Busid: 102 Special, Au Sid Nobis Promise Tot Manages Choice 6-1 Music Class, 10-1 Spring To Ricky, 18-1 Learning Land

1998 COOL 925 5-11-10 & P Nector 11-14 F Nectols 5 ran

TIME INDIVISES HURTOLE (DIV II: E3.148: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

41P ARSOLUTE UMET 14 (8 Wooden) J Gilbro 5-11-7.

L Aspel (3) 65

5 CLASSY LAD 28 (M Buskey) N Henderson 7-11-7.

M A Pizzpratió 65

410-052 JOHN DIRIAM 35 (6.5) (A Jenius) P Winber 5-11-7.

J Osborne 94

160 MARTERI BCK 19 (6 Thomars 1-11-7.

Clare Thomar (7) 67

344-590 DUT FOR A DILEX 26 (Jéas S Hejmas) H Haytes 6-11-7.

REAL MADRID 25 (C Wall) G Entique 6-11-7.

REAL MADRID 25 (C Wall) G Entique 6-11-7.

BERIATY

PRAL MADRID 25 (C Wall) G Entique 6-11-7.

MF R Tenenton (6)
OROYAL TEAM 58 (L Pice) M Wilderson 5-11-7.

SECTACLE SER 67 (P Bestiman 5-11-7.

Gordon Gallagier
SPECTACLE SER (C Wall) G Foreign 6-11-7.

GORDON 1 TO COMBER 19 (C Wall) G Partie 5-11-7.

C Limselyn 84

P HOMENSHAN 16 (C Cooper) D Martel Davis 5-11-7.

C Limselyn 84

P HOMENSHAN 16 (C Cooper) D Martel Davis 5-11-7.

SARLIER'S REALM 2176 (B Record) P Hobbs 4-10-13.

D Bildgreiter
SARLIER'S REALM 2176 (B Record) P Hobbs 4-10-13.

D Bildgreiter
SARLIER'S REALM 2176 (B Record) P Hobbs 4-10-13.

D Bildgreiter
SARLIER'S REALM 2176 (B Record) P Hobbs 4-10-13.

D Bildgreiter
SARLIER'S REALM 2176 (B Record) P Hobbs 4-10-13.

D C Tormey -SETTERES 9-4 John Daymon, 4-1 Classy Lad, 5-1 Zander, 8-1 Sadler's Realm. Lucky Archer, 10-1 others. 1998: DREAM RIDE 6-11-7 R Dunwoody (5-2 tay) D Nicholson 12 ran 4.30 SPRING NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,320: 2m 110yd) (25 numbers)

SPRING MATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,320: 2m 110yd) (25 minners)
61 COLUNTRY BEAU 22 (D.6) (Nurs J Pepplem) J Ring 5-11-11 M Richards
1 HARRIS CROFT STAR 28 (D.6) (Nurs March D Nicholson 6-11-11 R Messey (3)
21 BESSE BROWNE IS (S) (S) Finingroll G Hubbard 5-11-6 Mr R Thornton (5)
AROTHER RUMPUS (Nes 2 Clank) C Mortock 5-11-4 Mr A Sanstani
022 BOLD LEAP 21 (Into Bearenbarre Pure) Webbar 5-11-4 Mr A Sanstani
02 CATHAY 20 (R & E Highling) Mr 5-9 Promp 5-11-4 Mr A Sanstani
02 CATHAY 20 (R & E Highling) Mr 5-9 Promp 5-11-4 Mr A Sanstani
03 CATHAY 20 (R & E Highling) Mr 5-9 Promp 5-11-4 Death Synol
04 COLDEN EAGLE 14 (P Oldfield) N Henderson 5-11-4 Death Synol
05 CATHAY 20 (R & E Highling) Mr 5-11-4 Mr A Ritypani
07 CHARLAN (J Sunley) Mrs 1 Murghs 6-11-4 Death Synol
07 LEGORIO (RCEY (P Margard) C Mortock 5-11-4 Death Synol
07 LEGORIO (RCEY (P Margard) C Mortock 5-11-4 Death Synol
07 LEGORIO (RCEY (P Margard) C Mortock 5-11-4 Death Synol
08 LEGORIO (RCEY (P Margard) C Mortock 5-11-4 Death Synol
09 LEGORIO (RCEY (P Margard) C Mortock 5-11-4 Death Synol
09 LEGORIO (RCEY (P Margard) C Mortock 5-11-4 Mr Lorne (7)
09 Mr 5 LANGUAG (P Margard) Mr 1 Margard (7)
00 Mr 1 Margard (P Mrs 1) D Beaching Mr 1 Muscion-Dantes 5-11-4 Mr Lorne (7)
00 Mr 1 Powelly N Muscion-Dantes 5-10-13 C Landully PHAR BETTER OFF (Mrs 1) Balley) J Mullins 6-10-13 S Carrain
00 PHAR BETTER OFF (Mrs 1) Balley) J Mullins 6-10-13 S Carrain
01 PHAR BETTER OFF (Mrs 1) Balley) J Mullins 6-10-13 S Carrain
01 PHAR BETTER OFF (Mrs 1) Balley) J Mullins 6-10-13 S Powell N Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 J PT Towny
01 Mrs 1 Question 1 Margard (P Mrs 1) D D Bedigmenter
01 LASSIA (P Come) 6 Transer 4-10-10 S Powell N Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Margard (P Towner 4-10-10 N P Marga SETTING: 3-1 Country Beau, 4-1 Harris Croff Star, 5-1 War Paint, 8-1 Golden Eagle, Just Morman, 10-1 others 1996: FRENCH HOLLY 5-11-6 K Whelen (Evers ter) F Morphy 14 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS 3. JOCKEYS Rides 5 151 13 66 TRAINERS Res 60 Q 26.5 23 1 19.7 5 115 65 51

1996: SUALTACH 9-1 L Detton (16-1) R Hollinshead 14 ran

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD (HURDLES)

59:5611 SENDR EL RETRUTTI 16 (F.B.S.) (G Noct) Mrs S Nock 8-11-13 511-25 VALIMIT WARRIOR 35 (F.B.S.) (F Selars) M Harmond 9-11-4... P-889-53 PPR FOUR 12 (G.S.) (S Gray) G McCourt 18-11-0 C130/S3 DARREN THE BRAVE 36 (D.BF.S.) (D Alipon) E Bronks 9-10-0...

1996 SURY BAY 7-11-12 & Bradley (17-4) C Branks 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BETTING: 4-6 Senox El Belouth. 7-2 Valuari Wearnor, 9-2 Darren The Brave, 8-1 Pyr Fous

1.15 BROWN CHAMBERLIN HANDICAP CHASE

2.30 MARCH HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £4,110: 7f) (22 runners)

2. 31 MARCH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,110: 7f) (22 FURINEYS)
201 (11) 265400- MULIDAN 142 (F) U Golman) R Hollenshead 9-7 F Lynch (3) 96
202 (4) 24211-1 EFFENVESCENEZ 78 (0.6) (Said Busin Syndicate) R Hannon 9-5 Dame O'Neal 8203 (13) 221640- RUDE AWARCHINE 186 (F) (N Hal) C Familiant 9-4 R Confirme 86
204 (2) 341020- BLAZING CASTLE 221 (F) (Nos D Weinerath) W S M Turcer 9-3 D McGadin (7) 93
205 (8) 43062- RAMBOW RAIN 156 (M A) Malacumi M Johnston 9-2 J Weiner 9-3 D McGadin (7) 93
205 (8) 25014-0 (CANT REMEMBER 117 (CDF, SS) (F Galarin Racing) P Evers 9-2 J F Egan 9-5
207 (1) 331-432 MOMINTE MR MCCELIN 52 (D, S) (Ms C McPhaf) E Miston 9-2 K Fallon 9-2
208 (21) 331-635 (LTRA BOY 57 (RF.F) (Pet Express) P Hestam 9-0 S Downer 87
209 (10) 021100- DOUBLE GOLD 192 (D.F.G) M Elevards) B Mochan 8-13 M Tebball 90
210 (20) 4160-00 A BREEZ 30 (F) (Mistor Pusters) D Morts 6-12 N Day 22
211 (19) 2256-61 TIMEGREEL 7 (N O.S) (J Simparen) W Misto 8-11 J Reid 95
212 (22) 32223- SANDBASGEDAGAN 163 (Ms C Hardin) M W Esterby 6-11 T Outher 94
214 (9) 220-10 JAY-OWE-TVIC 76 (BF,G) (N Windson) R Windson 8-9 P At Eddery 94
215 (15) 01-5301 LA DOLCE VITA 19 (D,G) (S Woodal) T Barron 8-9 Kurnoniny Hart (7) 94
216 (18) 3100- LEVELLED 147 (5) (Margon 104) M Carron 8-8 Margon (94) Hart (94)
220 (14) 05-5 SOLLIN TERRY 197 (N Westhood) T Extertoy 6-3 J Carroll 8220 (14) 05-5 SOLLIN TERRY 197 (N Westhood) T Extertoy 6-3 J Carroll 8221 (12) 03- MORY DAWN 233 (D borry R Normy 8-2 Rarolon Rain, Start Defgat, 10-1 others
221 (12) 03- MORY DAWN 233 (D borry R Normy 8-2 Rarolon Rain, Start Defgat, 10-1 others
221 (14) 05-6 Hart (10-1) R Start (10-1) R Morts 6-1 Ellerwescence, 7-1 Sandszogodágan, 8-1 Margon Park, Kaurhor Rain, Start Defgat, 10-1 others THUNDERER 2.50 Song Of The Sword 1.15 Senor El Betrutti

3,20 Red Branch 3.55 JOHN DRUMM (nap)

4.30 Harris Croft Star

SIS

J Osborne 91 R Garrity (29) D Britigmater 87 C Llewellyn 90

BBC1

E. P.

SERGR EL BETRIJTTI beat Havasian Youth 13/4 in 5-names handicap chase at Vincanton (2m 5), good). Previously beat Southampton 10 in 3-un-ret handicap chase at Warnick (2m 4) 10/yd. a youd) VALIANT WARRICK best effort 16/2 and of 3 to General Commission in handicap chase at Faueritam (3m 10/yd, good) VALIANT WARRICK best effort 16/2 and of 3 to General Commission in handicap chase at Haydock 1,45 LAMBOURN HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,884: 2m 110yd) (8 numers)

1 0-20106 KADASTROF 14 (D.S.S) (A Paton) fi Dickin 7-71-11
2 2F)-49F ASTROF 14 (D.S.S) (A Paton) fi Dickin 7-71-11
3 113320 HAMALTON SALK 9 (D.F.G.S) (A S Racing) 9 Holdes 5-11-10
1 1335-FD SHARMART 44 (D.G.S.S) (at Physical Physical Processor 5-11-6
1 13415 HORESTAL 14 (D.G.S.S) (3 Griffins) S (Giffins) 5-11-9
1-2-2-2-4-4 BLAR CASTLE 14 (D.F.) (3 Griffins) S (Balding 5-10-5
1-2-2-4-4 BLAR CASTLE 14 (D.F.) (1 Handles 5-1) Horsel Johnson 5-10-4
1-2-2-3-3 RADASPOUR 72 (D.S.) (1 Pollock) 1 Horsel Johnson 5-10-4
1-2-2-3-3 MINA-LOUL-AND 21 (D.F.G) (1 Marten) Marx N holgel 5-10-5
1-2-2-3-3 MINA-LOUL-AND 21 (D.F.G) (1 Marten) Marx N holgel 5-10-5
1-2-2-3-3 MINA-LOUL-AND 21 (D.F.G) (1 Marten) Marx N holgel 5-10-6
1-2-2-3-3 MINA-LOUL-AND 21 (D.F.G) (1 Marten) Marx N holgel 5-10-6 BETTIMS: 3-1 Forestal, 4-1 Hamilton Sale, 9-2 Minn-Lou-And, 6-1 Admell Boy, 6-1 Section, Blaz Castle, 10-1 1996: KINGSFOLD PET 7-11-8 D Steprine (5-1) M Haynes 11 ran

A September Commence of the September of

1.45 Mim-Lou-And

Long handicap: Darren The Brave 9-3.

2.15 River Bay

FORM FOCUS KADASTROF best effort beat Architectre 31 in 14sonor, HAMBLTON SEK best effort 92 and 18 to
spending hamble at Chepstow (2m 110 pd.
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SUNKERISO FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 3 40 Carbunon Lingfield Paric 2 40 Milenum Lass Tigana, 370 Napoleon's Gold, Newbury: 2.50 Don't Mind in 1 Dogses Animas

Sale strive for higher level of security

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE North's three first division clubs travel south today for matches which, though only one more step along the demanding Courage Clubs Championship way, could yet mean make or break for them. That the club programme has been truncated by representative calls means nothing to those preoccupied with do-

Sale, who play weakened Bristol at the Memorial Ground, have furthest to go, having played only 13 matches, and have nine remaining to be crammed in at a time when the juicy prospect of a first appearance in the Pilkington Cup final beckons. In that time, however, they could yet qualify for European rugby next season and achieve some

financial security.

They lie fifth in the table and, though they may suffer from absentecism, few would bet against their beating a Bristol team shorn of Mark Regan and Simon Shaw, the

England, the holders, came through the opening day of the Rugby World Cup sevens in Hong Kong with comfortable victories over Canada and Zimbabwe yesterday, which eased their route to the knockout stage tomorrow. The only blemish was an injury to Richard Hill.

injured England forwards, and David Corkery, the Ireland flanker. Moreover, Sale's success this season has attracted the attention of potential investors, one of whom will be recommended to a club members' meeting on April 10. In financial terms, Sale have muddled through the

first fully-professional season of club rugby, riding on the backs of players inspired by the now-departed Paul Turner and hardened by John Mitchell, their player-coach from New Zealand.

Should their members accept the recommendations of the club management for what Howard Thomas, the chief executive, describes as "the most favourable deal to have gone through so far" - which would give the investor the professional rugby rights while leaving a members' club intact - then Sale have the prospect of throwing off their unfashionable tag.

At the other end of the table lie West Hartlepool and, propping up the other II clubs. Orrell. West are unlikely to win at Harlequins this afternoon but have a realistic chance of avoiding one of the two definite relegation places. They have only six league matches after today and have been sustained by the good form of Ivan Morgan and Jamie Connolly, their imports from Canterbury in New Zealand's South Island. land's South Island.

Moreover, their long-term casualties are nearing fitness: George Truelove returns to the wing after a long absence, David Mitchell should be fit for the April programme, so should Gareth Rowlands, the Canada lock. West accept that they are likely to be involved in the end-of-season play-offs with the third and fourthplaced clubs in the second division but at least that keeps the first-division door

That same door is fast slamming on Orrell. Two wins from 14 games is a record they are hardly likely to im-prove at Sudbury against top-of-the-table Wasps, who expect to include Lawrence Dallaglio, recovered from the tonsilitis that kept him out of the international in Cardiff last week and the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong. Peter Scrivener stands in for Chris Sheasby.

At a members' meeting this week, Ron Pimblett, the Orrell chairman, outlined the positive steps his committee hopes to take. "We want to appoint a general manager and a coach, the sooner the better," he said. "The membership clearly does not want an owner. We have 17's acres of our own and we want to use it properly. We have always had good players but it's money holding us back, so we must find ways of raising it, from our own efforts and from increased sponsor-

The Rugby World Cup sevens has hit not only the English league programme but also the quarter-finals of the Swalec Cup in Wales. Two ties, Neath v Swansea and Ebbw Vale v Bridgend, will be played next weekend but today there are one-way tickets for Pontypool to Llanelli and South Wales Police to Cardiff. Should either second-division club win, it would go down in



Williams springs the rat trap

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE

IT TAKES a lot to upstage Venus Williams on a tennis court. At 6ft 2in and all legs, beads and elbows as she gives the ball a hefty clout, the rising star in the American firmament makes news wherever she goes. However, on her first appearance outside California and her debut at the Lipton Championships, even she was demoted to a supporting role as a rat stole the show. Williams was cruising

through her first-round match against Ginger Helgeson Neilson, a set ahead and 1-0 up, when a courtside commotion brought proceedings to a halt. With squeals and screams, the spectators ran for cover as a rat scuttled around the seating. Helgeson Neilson was having none of it and made for the locker-room as the tournament staff spent 20 minutes catching and evicting the interloper.

At least it gave Helgeson

CRICKET: RETURNING FAST BOWLER SALVAGES SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN'S DUBIOUS DECISION TO FIELD

Neilson a chance to regroup and, by the time she got back to work, she gave Williams a run for her money for a set, at least. It was to no avail, however, as Williams took her place in the next round 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. She now faces Jennifer

Martina Hingis.

Both Hingis and Capriati
watched closely as Williams made her unusual debut. Both

Capriati for the chance to meet

of them have been through the media mill and, as they cast an experienced eye over the much vaunted arrival of the young superstar, they might have been forgiven for thinking they had seen it all before. Capriati, 20, is already well

into the second comeback of her career and, compared with Williams, is a positive veteran. As for Hingis, three months younger than Williams, she has won nearly as played tournaments and yet they both turned professional at the same time. in 1994.

While Hingis has matured as a player and a person, realising six months ago that she had what it took to win a grand slam and then working towards achieving that goal in January, Williams still worries about her geometry home-work and giggles over jokes with her sister.

Until this year, Williams has been kept away from the grind of the circuit by her father, Richard, although now is prepared to let his daughter venture out of the - to play in Rome, Paris. Eastbourne and Wimbledon. Maybe. The plans may change depending on "me changing my mind", accord-

ing to Venus. It all must be a touch galling for the other new hope on the horizon, Anna Kournikova. While Williams can play when and where she wants but just

beautifully judged catch at

long leg. Immediately after lunch. Waugh was beaten for

pace by Donald, and a desperately struggling Taylor was caught off an inside edge off

Lance Klusener as he threw

The only fluent batting of

the day, from Steve Waugh

and Greg Blewett, put things

into perspective and, at 190 for

four, the home supporters in a crowd of 9,500 looked and

sounded glum. Blewett got to

37 before he cut at one that

bounced from Pat Symcox, the

off spinner, and suddenly the

Donald's 150th Test wicket

was that of Healy, caught

down the leg side, and Glenn

McGrath was bowled by

Klusener in the ninetieth over.

day took off.

the bat at a wide one.

hemmed in from all sides.

A year younger than Williams, at 15, she is limited as to the number of tournaments she is allowed to play - this year it is ten, next year 13. With the new rankings system employed by the WTA, Kournikova feels that her young career has ground to a halt and she is rooted to the spot at No-90 in the world.

'I think, if I had the chance, I could play a little bit more to get some more experience," she said. "Every other girl is playing almost every other week and I can only play ten. Of course, they will get better Unites States for the first time, than me, even if I win all my

Putting such thoughts aside, she still made light work of Nana Miyagi on Thursday evening, skipping into the next round 6-2, 6-0. Sam Smith, Great Britain's sole qualifier, could not match that sort of performance and lost to Jana Kandarr, from Germany, 6-7,

IN BRIEF

Success for

Palace

protesters

THE Crystal Palace athletics

track and training facility,

targeted for demolition in

plans put before Bromley

Council, has been reprieved

after a campaign against the

closure led by many of the

leading names in track and

Snooker: Peter Ebdon, who

won the Thailand Open last

week, beat Steve Davis 6-1 in

the quarter-finals of the Ben-

son and Hedges Irish Masters

at Goffs, Co Kildare,

☐ Tennis: Mark Petchey, a

British Davis Cup regular for

the past six years, has been

dropped for the tie against

Zimbabwe next month. His

place has gone to Andrew

He should be fit to face India

in the third Test on March 27.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Platt dreams of Wembley in Indian summer

Christopher Irvine talks to the prop anchoring the success of Salford

ix months ago, Abdy Platt would scarcely have imagined that he alone be involved in a semifinal of the Silk Cot Challenge Cup at Wigan today.
After two highly enjoyable seasons at Anckland Warriors and turned 33, the former Great Britain prop forward was ready to end his career when the call arrived from unfashionable Saiford and Andy Gregory,
a sparring partner from his
Wigan beyday.
Gregory, the Saiford
coach, is one of life's charm.

ers, but no amount of his sweet talk was going to persuade Platt A chat with that I was thinking of finish-ing and he told me I would regret it so much because of the way I was playing," he said. "I discussed it with my wife and she agreed. You're long time retired. Then, bingo, I'm here, not regretting a minute of it."

Platt admitted he had his ioubts at first about Salford. They were a side coming up to Super League from the first division and I was concerned," he said, "What I hadn't given them credit for was the talent that's here. Greg [Gregory] told me they were a club going places and he's right. There's a great spirit. Not too serious, but serious when it matters. I'm the old guy around here, but there are a few of us oldies who feel like 21 again."

Knee and hamstring injuries have reminded Platt this week that he is not as young as he might feel, but tweaks and strains are unlikely to prevent enjoyment of his nostalgia trip this afternoon. He has not played at Central Park since he left Wigan, with whom he won six. Challenge Cup winners' medals, at the end of the 1993-94 season. Auckland was supposed to be his swansong, but Platt is still hitting the advantage line quicker and harder than

His only losing Wembley Cup final appearance was in 1987 for St Helens, today's opponents and the holders. We're realists," he said. "You have to be at Salford. Saints tasted success last year and they'll have the appetite again. You only had to see them against London Broncos, when the Broncos dominated for 80 per cent of Sunday's game, to know they are a good side. They

grinded that result out. I

don't know if we can play any better than the Broncos. It will take an effort as good as theirs, then we need to cut down on errors and come up with a bit of luck."

If experience counts for anything Salford's so-called "Dad's Army" can be relied apon not to make it easy for St Helens. Plant and three other newcomers to the pack this season — John Cart-wright, the inspirational Australian, David Hulme and Esene Faimalo -- are all over 30. At 32, Paul Forber, player, is also playing some alongside Cartwright in the second row. Salford have looked watertight in defence in progressing to only their third post-war Cup semi-final in their opening Super League game last Sunday, they shut out Castleford

However, a 4-0 victory also highlighted a problem of where tries are going to come from Apart from the in-form Darren Rogers and



Platt: veteran

Nathan McAvoy, Salford's thin-looking attack could be exposed, something Gregory will be aware of when he names his side from a 20-strong squad shortly be-fore kick-off. St Helens are unchanged apart from the return on the bench of Derek McVey, the Austra-lian forward, after a hairline fracture of the wrist.

There is a danger, too, of looking too far ahead. Gres ory has been waxing lyrical about a possible ninth cup final appearance at Wembley he never lost there as a player for Widnes and Wigan - and of taking his chair-man, John Wilkinson, there for the first time. Gregory has never been short on confidence — he even squeezed in a trip to watch Manchester United at FC Porto in midweek - and, were Saiford to win today, that self-belief

Robinson back on Wigan duty

By Christopher Invine JASON ROBINSON re-

turns to the Wigan side for the Super League match against Castleford tomorrow night, having been injured since the Silk Cut Challenge Cup defeat away to St Helens six weeks ago. The good news about Robinson, the Great Britain wing, is in contrast to that of Gary Connolly, his international colleague and another returnee from a winter stint in rugby union, who broke down in training this week.

Connolly's last game was three months ago for Harlequins. A knee injury has failed to heal and an operation could mean Wigan being without him for most of the season. Robinson's own future

has yet to be resolved. He is Skiing: Alain Baxter and scheduled to join the Austra-Emma Čarrick-Anderson relian Rugby League (ARL) in tained their giant slalom titles June. There is even more at the British Land British pressure now on Wigan to national ski championships in try to keep him, but whether the ARL would want to let go of such a prize acquisition must be doubtful

Meanwhile, until Wigan's and London Broncos' definition of a nominal payment for Shaun Edwards can be agreed upon, Edwards cannot move south, although Wigan, who reportedly approved his release.

want E150,000 for him, have Edwards became a father this week and is now based in London with his girlfriend. "I don't want to see

my son just once a week," Edwards said. "I'll be a Wiganer until the day I die, but I've given the club loyal service for 14 years and I

hope they'll look on my move with compassion." Ian Sanders, the Bath rugby union scrum half. features on Wigan's shortlist as a replacement for Edwards after impressing in the cross-code challenge matches last spring, although the main target remains Tony Smith, of Castleford, who is also wanted by Sheffield Eagles.

John Pendlebury, who left the Wigan coaching staff this week to take charge of Halifax Blue Sox, will be the returning prodigal at Thrum Hall tomorrow when Halifax meet Sheffield. Pendlebury, who, as a player, inspired Halifax's 1986 championship and whose dropped goal beat St Helens in the Challenge Cup final the year after.

needs a winning start. Apart from Salford and St Helens in the Challenge Cup semi-final at Wigan today, the last four sides in the new Plate competition also have ambitious to reach Wembley on May 3.

Widnes, seven-times winners of the Challenge Cup, have home advantage in their semi-final against Hunslet, who last appeared at Wembley in 1965. The match is a restricted 2,500 self-out because of ground redevelopment.

Hull Kingston Rovers are in administration, but, if they were to win at Leigh and reach Wembley, where

Schultz precipitates Australia collapse but there was surprisingly Donald and Schultz took a

CENTURION PARK (South Africa won toss): Australia have scored 227 against South

BRETT SCHULTZ, back in the South Africa side for the first time in 15 months, engineered a batting collapse after tea here yesterday that saw Australia slide from 190 for four to 227 all out. Schultz, a left-arm fast

bowler who has suffered from a succession of recent injuries. took four wickets in all, and three for 21 runs in a ten-over spell, including those of Mich-ael Bevan and Shane Warne

First of the three to fall was Steve Waugh, to a legside

Waugh was reluctant to leave the crease after a typical innings of 67, including nine fours from 132 balls faced.

In came Ian Healy, whose first run was gained after an impassioned appeal from Schultz for leg-before when the ball rebounded from the pad to cover. Next was a concerted appeal for a catch by Richardson off Bevan, who was squared up by a beauty. Not out, Mervyn Kitchen, the umpire, said, but the next ball was left alone and up went the

Warne was next, given out leg-before for the third consecutive innings, with this one more out than he thought as

he aimed to leg. The final session rescued an

catch claimed by David Richordinary day for South Africa. Too many Australians got themselves out to justify the decision of Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, to field first. A total of 227 would. appear to prove his point, but final judgment must wait until

the home side has batted.

The pitch was slow after three weeks of heavy rains,

little lateral movement in the first two sessions. Matthew Hayden was the first of two batsmen to miss a straight ball - Mark Waugh was the other as he played outside one from Schultz

Matthew Elliott helped Mark Taylor to take the score to 60 before he hooked at Allan



happy with anywhere in the

He believes it is possible,

still, for a European to win at

world level, but not here. "You

could not design a course

better for the Africans," he

said — design being the key

word. The 1,900-metre circuit

was a roadway in the Parco

del Valentinto until Primo

top ten".

BCWLING: Donald 20-5-90-3; Schultz 20-4-52-4; Gronje 5-3-5-0; Klusener 14.5-5-23-2; Symcox 23-4-82-1; Kellis 7-2-20-0.

SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten, A M Bect B M McMillen, D J Cullinan, *W J Cror J H Kalle, L Klusener, 1D J Richards A A Donald, B N Schaftz, P L Symbox. Umpires: M J Kitchen (England) and C J Mitchley (South Africa).

ATHLETICS

Africans prepare to dominate

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN TURIN JON BROWN, the European

Conditions Runs to AUSTRIA 50 170 good varied good clou (Excellent piste skiling everywhere; no queues) Obergurgi 275 good powder good (Still enowing; excellent conditions) St Anton FRANCE 160 good powder good (Excellent skiling on powdery snow) 150 good powder good (All but lowest pistes in excellent shape) Méribel 135 200 good powder good sun (Superb skiling conditions: powdery snow, blue skiles) 100 220 good powder good sun 100 220 good powder good sun (Wonderful skiling everywhere; brilliam sun and snow) ITALY 70 hard verled closed (Pistes holding up weil in colder weather) Contina 60 . 170 good crusty fair (Some runs windblawn but mostly good) Livigno SWITZERLAND 50 120 good verled fair sun (Odd bare palch but mostly very good skiling) 5 80 good varied lair sun 4 (Excellent skiling on all middle and upper slopes) 30 275 good powder hard sun (30cm new snow; some of the best skiing this season)

Source: Ski Elub of Great Britain.

Nebiolo, president of the Incross country title-holder, ternational Amateur Athletic took one look at the course Federation (IAAF), decided here yesterday and wrote off that something had to be done his chances of becoming the to make the world championfirst non-African men's world ships a popular spectator event. Or, more to the point. champion since Carlos Lopes in 1985. Of his prospects for the 25th world championone that looked impressive on television. ships, taking place tomorrow. Brown said he would be

If the crowds would not travel to out-of-town courses. Nebiolo concluded, the discipline would have to move to their doorstep. Truck-loads of earth were piled on to the roadway and turf laid neafly on top. One artificial crosscountry course, cost \$500,000. Brown won his European title by a record 35 seconds on

a muddy circuit. "The course

here is not designed to inter-

rupt speed," Brown said. "It is super-fast and the faster it is, the better for the Africans." The downhill start narrows quickly and anybody not sprinting the first 300 metres will be boxed in Brown expects his first 400 metres, of the 12,300 metres, to be under 60 seconds.

seeking a third successive title, and Salah Hisson, of Morocco, who was runner-up last year, are the jointfavourites in the men's event. In the women's race, Paula Radcliffe, from Great Britain, and the Irish pair, Sonia O'Sullivan and Catherina McKiernan, are three contenders in an open field.

Tignes. France, yesterday. ☐ Baskethall: Russ Saunders, the Budweiser League's all-time leading scorer, has been suspended indefinitely by his club, Chester Jets, after failing a random drugs test. Golf: Oxford, seeking their

Paul Tergat, from Kenya, sixth successive win, held a 34-12 lead over Cambridge after the first day of the University match at Royal St George's, Sandwich. Cricket: Brian Lara, the West Indies batsman, has been advised to rest for six days after being treated for stress.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IPPOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MUNICIPAL DE COMPANDE DE COMPAND

they won the Challenge Cup twice in the Eighties, it would represent an enormous boost

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

Managerial dressing for the camera is accepted as a prime

aspect of the sport. Now an

organisation called Jos. A

Bank Clothier of Baltimore

has given awards for the best-

dressed manager, with Tubby

Smith, of Georgia Tech, and

Rick Pittino, of the University

of Kentucky, taking top hon-ours. Bob Knight, of Indiana University, and John Chaney, of Temple University, are written off as "fashionably

challenged". Smith apparent-ly won the dress-off: "He co-

ordinates his colour well," his

citation read. "His suits fit and

they fit his personality."

Olazabal's magic puts Westwood's round in shadows

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

IT WAS just one shot, but it Olazabal could get the ball was worth the long journey from England to the Canary Islands all on its own. It was the shot of a master, the sort of shot that would send a lesser mortal to heaven with a contented smile on his face if he was struck dead on the spot having played it.

Forget booming drives and raking long-iron shots: this was a stroke that sent the ball no more than 30 yards. It was as close to perfection as it is

possible to get.

It was the sort of shot of which Severiano Ballesteros. the ultimate manipulator of a golf ball, would have been proud. The man who played it was José María Olazábal; the shot deserved a bigger audience than the one it got.

It happened on the 18th green here at Maspalomas esterday, in the second round of the Turespaña Masters. Olazábal was eight under par on the tee, but looked to have lost his chance of getting closer to Lee Westwood, the leader, when he pushed his two-iron second shot a long way to the

ight of the green. He had a bare, scrubby lie, about the worst sort of terrain from which to play the delicate stroke that was demanded of him - a shot that demanded courage, imagination and, above all, the expressive hands of a concert pianist. There seemed no way that

near the hole. No such negative thoughts assailed the player. He had a look, pulled out a wedge, stepped up to the ball and swung. The ball left the clubhead low and fast, but it was an express train that suddenly found brakes as it checked on its second bounce

SECOND ROUND

feet from the pin.

and sighed gently to a halt five

EARLY SCORES (GB and Ire unless stated): 135: L Westwood 72, 63 137: J M Clazábal (Sp) 70, 67 138: M Haliberg (Swe) 67, 71; N Briggs 68, 70, 139: J C Piñero (Sp) 70, 69; J Haeggman (Swe) 70, 69; D Gátord 70, 69, 140: E Romero (Arg) 70, 70; D Ediund (Swe) 72, 68; P Spotand (Swe) 70, 70; A Hurtier 67, 73: S Henderson 69, 71; K Tomon (Japan) 68, 72; S Allan (Aus) 70, 70, 141: I Gamdo (Sp) 70, 71; P Mitchell 68, 73, M Fooloi (Ilaly) 72, 89; P Broadhurst 69, 72 142: C Suneson (Sp) 72, 70, D Bonego (Sp) 70, 72; F Cea (Sp) 71, 71, R Coles 73, 69; R Drummond 72, 70, M Davis 69, 73: J Payne 70, 72; A Coltant 71, 71.

The gallery sensed that they had just witnessed the shot of a sporting genius. Somebody yelled "El Monstruo", literally The Monster but, in the Spanish vernacular, a sign that the yeller has a high opinion of the yellee. Olazabal smiled: and three minutes later he smiled again when he holed the putt for a birdie four to close within two shots of

It was the 67th shot that Olazábai had played and, although in strict scoring terms it was handsomely eclipsed by the 63 with which Westwood had earlier broken the course record by three shots, it was another happy episode in Olazabal's remarkable comeback after 18 months of pain and anguish with his

injured feet. It left Olazábal on nine under par. Had it not been for Westwood's pyrotechnics, it would have put him in the lead going into the weekend. It might have frightened a lesser man, but Westwood, 23, is not easily fazed.

Starting at the 10th, he had six birdies and two eagles, the first at the 11th, where he chipped in from 35 feet, and the second at the 9th, his last, where he holed a full wedge shot from 138 yards.

Westwood later criticised the demands of Ballesteros, who missed his fifth successive cut here, for wanting four picks for the Ryder Cup team. It means that Seve has no confidence in the guys who finish ninth and tenth in the cup list," he said. "He will not be getting my vote. Nick Faldo has complained that there are no young players coming through, yet here's Seve trying to keep the old ones in."

They are no respecters of their elders, these young Turks. It was ever thus.



Davies leaves a cloud of dust after blasting the ball off a Moon Valley fairway

Davies moving through

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES, IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

LAURA DAVIES, renowned

Five under par after a birdie anger being good for you.

ment for the fourth year in a row, she will not only notch up her fiftieth victory worldwide. but will be linked with Walter Hagen - a soulmate who Perhaps she is feeling the liked to enjoy life to the full and Gene Sarazen, the only players to win the same event four times on the USPGA

However, she was nowhere ar as out of sorts as Annika Sorenstam, the US Open champion, who was lacking her usual metronomic precision. In the second round, she was out in 40, three over par (she started at the 10th), to be one over and struggling. In the first round, she was in six bunkers and her clubbing was

Tour. No wonder Davies was

unusually jittery.

FIRST ROUND

United States unless stated 65: B Mucha, 68: D Coe-Jones (Can) 67: K Robbins 68: M MoNamera, H Dobson (CBI, M Radman, K Wess 69: K Tschetter, J Stephenson (Aus), A Benz, L Brower, J McGal, M Lunn (Aus) 70: R Walton, L Devies (GB), E Daniel, L Hackney (GB), C Figg-Cunier, L Heckney, Other scores: 71: A Nicholas (GB), K Weblo (Aus), A Soran-stem (Swei 72: J Morley (GB), 73: C Pierce (CB), P Johnson (GB), 5 C Coce (t), H Attractiscon (Swei) 74: P Winght (GB), C Nismark (Swei), K Mershell (GB), 75: L Nismark (GB).

but my yardages were really

effects of a festering feud with Charlotta, her younger sister. Relations between them are strained, and, after the first round. Charlotta strode straight past Annika without a glance, let alone an inquiry as to how she had done.

Yesterday Tom and Gunilla Sorenstam, the parents, were walking with Annika while keeping an anxious, if distant, eye on Charlotta, who is in her rookie season in the United States and was playing in the group behind. Perhaps they had been banned from watching, but it would seem that a no-holds-barred family summit would be in order, to thrash the matter out.

Charlotta, who started with a round of 76, was having a better day, going out in 35, two under par. Striding out ahead of her playing partners, who included Karrie Webb, the rookie sensation of 1996, it was easy to see the same determination that has made her sister a champion.

EQUESTRIANISM

on show at Gatcombe

By JENNY MACARTHUR

land, the winner of the indi-vidual gold medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, and Mark Todd, his compatriot, the Olympic head a formidable field for the Gatcombe Horse Trials in Gloucestershire, sponsored by Land-Rover, which take place

The trials, which are of The going is usually good, the

questions," he said. Other leading British riders competing include Mary King, who is attempting a third successive win this season with King William, her former top horse, and also rides King Solomon, her 1996 Blenheim winner: Lucinda Murray, with Lovell Lass, her Badminton entry; and lan Stark, a member of the Great Britain Olympic team, who

rides Sir Marcus and The Moose. Fox-Pirt will also be competing against Wiggy, his wife. who is deputising for her

order to help to prepare him for the Saumur Three-Day Event, in France in May.

Tait and Todd, who finished first and second in the world three-day event rankings last season, have two rides each in the intermediate sections. Tait competes with Chesterfield and Aspyring, his Badminton ride, on which he was fourth at the Boekelo event in Holland last October.

Todd is approaching this weekend with some caution. His first ride is a new horse, Stunning, the New Zealand thoroughbred from which he had a fall at the water at the Puhinui three-day event in New Zealand in December their first event together. He is also riding Kayem, the horse that he had to withdraw from the Games in Atlanta at the last minute because of a shoulder injury.

Gatcombe takes on an added significance this year. Tomorrow marks the launch of National Riding Week, of which the Princess Royal is president. The aim of the week is to encourage more people to ride - and to dispel the myth that riding is elitist.

More than 3,000 events have been organised, including, on Friday, "Take a Friend Riding Day", when riding schools nationwide are offering lessons free or at reduced prices. Gatcombe will play its part by offering pony rides tomorrow afternoon.

Mystic appeal draws elite to the crease

THERE is a book, confusingly called The Tao of Cricket, which claims that cricket is in truth an Indian game that happened to have been invented in England. This column has long been sympathetic to this notion and now I can bring you conclusive proof.

Ley do 150

India's best-known living mystic is Satya Sai Baba, a greatly revered figure who has many followers among the rich and powerful of the Western world. He will be 72 in November and there can be no better way to celebrate this cosmic event than a cricket match. There is no difficulty in bringing about so small a miracle as this: the Baba includes among his devotees such transcendentally gifted cricket adepts as Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath and Erapalli Prasanna. This triumvirate is finalising a list of players to be

invited for a match between an Indian and a World XI. The Baba was inspired to his pursuit of cricket by a visit from the World Cup-winning Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga. The match will be held at the Baba's vast "hermitage" at Puttaparti, near Bangalore. The Baba's trust can afford a pretty lavish celebration, not being short of the odd lakh or crore of rupees. And transport is a small problem to such a man: the hermitage has its own

Paying his ticket

Perhaps the truest test of

character in sport is the ability

to make horrendous cock-ups

achievement of the amateur

rugby league club, Siddal, in

rising above the most grievous

Siddal, a club from Halifax,

were travelling to play a tie in

the BNFL National Cup, the

amateurs' Challenge Cup, at

On the way, the coach

stopped at Cockermouth for

the stretching of legs. The lads

then went on to the ground,

where they discovered that

one of their props, a giant by the name of Mallgranda, was

not among them. He had slipped off for a pee and they

aged to win 20-16.

serk in a bad suit.

Sharp operators

Hensingham, in Cumbria.

self-inflicted wounds.

inis column

and then to rise above them.

Worries at home It is hard to be a sports star.

Ronaldo, the brilliant Brazil forward playing for Barcelo-na, is negotiating with his club for a still more lucrative contract, said to be worth around £2 million a year. Meanwhile, he learns that his father, Nelio Nazario Lima. has been in trouble for drugs again. He was arrested in possession of heroin, but went unpunished because the drug was for "personal use". "I've been into drugs for five years," he said. "But I have stopped so as not to tarnish the image of Ronaldo, whom I love so much." This was contradicted by one of Ronaldo's understrappers, Al-exander Maryins. "We are organising medical treatment for him. Ronaldo is worried. We shall help him." Fame is a hard business for all involved

Headline makers

The pun is a dangerous thing: you ask James Joyce. A pun can fall horribly flat, become incomprehensibly elliptic, can blow up in your face. However, the moments when a good oun hits the target are wonderfully sweet. The un-sung heroes of journalism are the people who write the headlines. It is to celebrate their outbreaks of inventiveness that Oddball Publishing, publisher of the indispensable BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Yearbook, has come up with The Oddball Sports Headline

The idea came from a had driven off without him. conversation with Pete The bus went back for him Nicholis, of Oddbali, myself and Mallgranda was in time and another journo, Simon to watch the second half. O'Hagan, in which we ban-There he saw the coach, Andy died such legendary headlines Hancock, responsible for the as "Super Cali fabulistic Airhead count on the bus, playing drie are atrocious" and in his place. And Siddal man-'Oueen in brawl at Palace". Here are the best headlines of 1996, by the judges' decision, runners-up first. The Observer Remember the era of the reported an under-19 cricket catwalk football manager? match under "Hollioakes The sharpest suit competition, from little acorns grow". The the clunkiest jewellery, as Sun captioned a picture of the managers such as John Bond Formula One driver, Pedro and Ron Atkinson sought the Diniz, horrifyingly engulfed in honour of looking the most flames, an accident from spiv-like. Thank the Lord. which he walked away: "Diniz most managers prefer to wear in the oven." However, the tracksuits these days. But winner was The Sunday Tele-American college basketball is graph, an establishment that a sport still in thrall to the has clearly not forgotten the myth of the suit. The sport's Sixties. Beneath its story of a Brazilian footballer going defining image is 12 black Awol while linked with another club: "Emerson late giants standing around a small white man going berand Parma?

Woods too popular for his own security

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

TIGER WOODS was accompanied by a 14-strong security force when he began his raindelayed second round in the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando yesterday. It comprised four plain-clothed police officers and ten hand-nicked marshals to counter the enormous interest generated by the 21-year-old Californian.

Woods is by far the biggest attraction in world golf after winning three successive US amateur championships and three titles in 12 events since turning professional last August, and the plan was implemented following a directive

from Tour officials. They have issued a 12-point security schedule with attendances rising by between 20 and 50 per cent whenever Woods competes and it alsosuggests that he must be guarded by four officers from the moment he arrives the course until he leaves.

Ric Clarson, the tour's vicepresident for business affairs. said: "Tiger has caused the need for a concentration on the need for a new plan because he has very much outgrown that applied to other big-name players."

Woods and his entourage spent two hours in the lockerroom, with overnight storms delaying the start, and he was trapped by a huge following when he eventually got onto ed with an exhibition of his tremendous length from the tee with Woods birdieing the par-five 4th and 6th holes to move into a share of the lead at

six under par. Bernhard Langer, who opened with a 69, made his customary solid start with

of getting round before dark

Hall rounds off fine comeback

title ten years ago, to victory in

the Sunningdale Foursomes. Hall, the former British on and now the secretary of the Ladies' Golf Union, finished off a remarkable comeback by holing three successive putts to give her and Wadsworth a 4 and 3 win in the final over Jeremy

teur circuit, said.

for her relaxed approach to life and golf, admitted to being "in a bit of a frenzy" by the time she hit her opening drive in defence of her Standard Register Ping title at Moon Valley on Thursday. She was unusually nervous to begin with, then the announcer gave her a world title bout build-up and her ball fell off the tee as she swing. She re-teed, hit a wild

Davies.the world No I. eventually recovered her equilibrium to post a satisfactory score of 70, three under par, five strokes behind Barb Mucha, the leader; and after 13 holes of her second round she had moved to seven under. iust two behind Kelly Robbins

at the 16th, her seventh hole, Davies dropped shots at the 17th and 18th and strode to the first tee in a way that signailed: "Stand clear". What followed was four consecutive birdies - a classic case of If Davies wins the tourna-

(Geri 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; A Voinea (Rom) bi M Zanaleta (Arg) 5-7, 7-5, 6-6 ref H Gurry (Arg) by P Ratter (Aus) 6-4, 6-4, M Champerber (Aug) but J Gemelstob (US) 7-6, 3-6 6-6 G Auserten (Bl) bi M Joyce (US) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, Women: First round: N Savarnesis (Alapen) bi S Farma (II) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, Wing Sh-Ting (Panish) bi R Zrubakova (Storalina) 6-3, 6-4, A Ethwood (Aus) bi D Chisakova (Cs) 6-2, 6-1; F Perteri (III) bi M Shaughessy (US) 6-0, 4-6, 6-3, R Harak (Lapen) 10 M Endo (Lapen) 4-6, 6-3, R Harak (Lapen) 10 M Endo (Lapen) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, P Hy-Boulas (Car) bit N Nemova (Cs) 7-6, 7-6, M Grayboreka (Poli bi C Moranu (US) 6-1, 7-6, 4-6, A Lamiluos (Fin) bi P Suarez (Aug) 6-1, 6-4, A Lamiluos (Fin) bi C Moranu (US) 6-1, 7-6, 4-6, 3-7, 6-3, 6-1 E Wagner (Ger) bi T Whillinger (Johns) (US) 2-6, 6-6, 3-8, R Hissa (Fin) bi M Menuska (Austria) 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, E Wagner (Ger) bi T Whillinger (Johns) (US) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; A Dechaume-Ballerst (Fin) bi H Sukova (Cs) 6-3, 6-1; I Nelland (Lat) bi L Richterova (Ch) 6-3, 6-1; I Nelland (Lat) bi L Richterova (Cs) 6-1, 6-3, 7-5, P Schmyder (Gwis) bi A Mandriantely (Madagasca) 7-6, 6-3, T Tanasugam (Thas) bi G Pizzonni (Ti) 6-4, 4-1 N Zwerova (Bola) bi P Languno i E Malanova (Ros) 7-5, 6-1; I Gomochistique (Alg) bi M Rigneric (US) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, M Saeh (Japan) bi R Grande (It) 6-6, 6-1, 6-3, F Lahari, (Ang) bi M de Swarti (SA) 6-2, 6-3, E Callers (Bol) bi M Sánchez (Losenzo (So) 6-4, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) bi C Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) bi C Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) bi C Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Bola) bi C Corssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Ros) bi C Crssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Ros) bi C Crssea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, M Zwerova (Ros) bi C Crssea (Rom) 6-4, 6-4, M Zwerova (Ros)

(SA) 6-2, 6-3, E Catters (Bel) bit M Sanchez Lorenzo (So) 6-1, 6-3, L. Lee (US) bit Constea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4, L. McNest (US) bit M Dremans (Holl) 6-4, 6-4
ST PETERSBURG: Men's Loumannent: Second round: K Cattern (Den) bit N Marques (Por) 6-4, 6-4, O Detailize (Fig bit D Mace) 10-3, 7-6, T. Johansson (Swe) bit Saman (Fig 3, 6, 6-3, 5-2, M Such (Ger) bit O Camporese (ft) 6-4, 6-4

THE TIMES

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FOOTBALL

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World leaders will be

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zeachampion in 1984 and 1988, this weekend.

novice and intermediate standard, were started by the Princess Royal five years ago and have been quick to establish themselves on the circuit. William Fox-Pitt, who leads the home entry on Cosmopolitan, his Olympic horse, the winner at Aldon last weekend, is an enthusiastic supporter. course is up to height and there are plenty of challenging

husband on Loch Alan in



01705 865575 or at the gate

security. Everyone recognises POR THE RECORD BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 106 Leicester 97 Leicester 97.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Los Angeles Lations 89 Cleveland, 76, Critando 100 Golden State 86; Houston 96 Westungton 90; Pontiand 97 Milweukaa 78; Proents: 113 San Antonio 106; Seatife 123 Deriver 97.

BILLIARDS

MADRAS: Gold Flate chempionship: Second round: R Foldvar (Aus) bi S Amamath (India) 4-3; A Kurrar (India) bi R Chapman (Eng) 4-3; M Russell (Eng) bi D Josh (India) 4-1; C Shult (Eng) bi P Glichnst (Eng) 4-2; G Selft India) bi M Farraia (India) 4-6; S Multars (India) bo D Causar (Eng) 4-2; Currar bi Foldwal 4-2; M Kotheri (India) bi Shuti 4-0; Salfil bi Multani 4-0 PERTH: Women's home international indoor championships: England bt Scotland 127-109 (England stapes stap): N Shew bt A Christo 24-15; M Steele lost to E Wen 18-21; J Roylance lost to J Sykas; 18-25; B Alderson bt J Conten 22-12; M Price lost E McGentle 15-21; D Hanlon bt R Hutchson 30-14. Final positions: 1, England 5p. 2. Scotland 4; 3, Wales 2; 4, freland 0

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Final (first day of lour): Ferth; Queensland 265-4 (Mr P Mott 26, S G Law 70, T J Barsby 97) v Western

Australia.

RED STRIPE CUP (first day of tout)
Berbios: Guyane 281 (C L Hooper 119. C
Lambert 55; I R Bishop 5-82), Timidad and
Tobago 36-0 St Catheline, Jamaica
Jamaica 156 (C E L Ambrose 4-16);
Leeward Islands 39-4 (F A Rose 3-26).

FOOTBALL

affusen ettel s'yeberuriT Thursday's late results
CUP WINNERS' CUP: Cusher-finate, second log: AFK Afrans 0 Paris Sanf-German 3 (Paris Sant-German wir 3-0 on aggregate): AFK Soine 1 Barcelone 1 Barcelone 4-2 on aggregate): Fiorentina 0 Benilica 1 (Florentina win 2-1 on aggregate): Liverpool 3 SK Brann 0 (Liverpool win 4-1 on aggregate): DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Suchury 4 Beldock 0 Sudbury 4 Beldock 0 AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First

LAUSANNE: World championships: MenFinal positions: 1, E Stojko (Can) 3.0; 2 1
Beledge (US) 30 factored placements; 3.
A Yagudin (Russ) 5.5; 4, V Zagorodnuk
(Un) 7.0; 5, 1 Kulik (Pluss) 7.5; 6, A
Vaspento (Gen) 10.0; 11, S Cousins (GB)
19.5; Free programme: 1, Stojko 10; 2;
Eidredge 2.0; 3, Yagudin 30; 4,
Zagorodnuk 4.0; 5, Vlescenko 5.0; 6, Kulik
6.0; 11, Cousins (GB) 110. Women (after
short programme: 1, T Liberski (US) 0.5; 2,
V Gusmeroli (Fri 1.0; 3, M Bullyrsky)
(Pluss) 15; 4, M kwan (US) 2.0; 5, V Czako
(Phun) 25; 6, I Studienya (Russ) 30 ice
dancei (efter onginal and computany
programmes); 1, O Graschuk, and Y Platov
(Puss) 20; 3, S-L Bourne and V Nastz
(Can) 2.6; 4, S Mornotte and P Lavandry
(Pluss) 20; 3, S-L Bourne and G Peccarat (Fr)
4.8; 6, E Pursalan and J Swellow (US) 6.0;
10, M Humphreys and P Aster (GB) 16.0. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wattord 1 Charlton 1.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Leicester 2 Streffield United 0.
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Abschusch 1 Knowle 2.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Victory Shield under-15 insurational: Societor 2 Water 1 (at Inventess). FA Premier League Trophy: Under-19 Serni-finel: Hamperire 2, Nortok 1 Under-18: Semi-finel: Oxfordshire 2 AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL) Manly. Wentingah 12 North Sydney 8 AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Auchland Wannors 12 Adelaide Rams 16

The second secon

three straight pars before collecting his first birdie at the fourth to get within two shots of Woods, while Ian Woosnam set out determined to beat the

Bay Hill course. The Weishman had a first-round 70. Nick Faldo (71) was hopeful

but it seemed likely that Colin Montgomerie (73) and Sandy Lyle (75) would be forced to return today to complete 36

CRLANDO, Floride: Bey Hill invitational fournisment: Leading first-round scores (US umises stated): 67: P Stankowski 68: B Ancirade, S Jones, T Woods, F Funk, 69: O Uresti, J D Blake, C Peny, S Pete, P Stewent, P Goydos, T Kite, V Singh (Fill), B Larger (Gerl. 70: L Mattesse, N Czaki (Japan), E Tohyan, E Els (SA), S Gurns, S Crist, J Maggert, S Simpson, G Kraft, B Herrumger. T Herron, G Boros, Y Naneko (Japan), E Woosnam (GB), S hendall, R Damron, Other scores, T: N Fairot (EB), ROYAL ST GEORGE'S, Sandwicht: University match: Ordord lead Cambridge 3%-1% (Cadord names First), J Saurders, and D McDowell bt O Malik and N Parel 6 and 5, 1 Heyloy and B Pawer halved with T McGland W Rusted, M Undellow and B Keogh bt. J Fletcher and J Firth 4 and 3; M Strading and L Baddey-Jones lost to P Cuest and C Russell 6 and 5. M Hall and E Hawkes bt J Buck and D Curta 6 and 5.

HOCKEY

PORTSMOUTH: Inter-Services tourne-ment: Men: RAF 3 Army 1. Women: Royal Navy 2 RAF 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Ottawa 2 Florida 2 (OT): Pitsburgh 6 Toronto 3. Phoenix 4 Chicago 2; St Louis 4 Hantlord 1 San Jose 2 Vancouwer 1.

ICE SKATING

RUGBY LEAGUE

Vicato Trophy: Sami Nonhumberland 0. School, Lancashre 4.

JULIE HALL completed a triumphant return to competitive golf after nine months yesterday, partnering Helen Wadsworth, the Welsh professional with whom she won the women's world four-ball

since the Curtis Cup victory over the United States last March, "I can't wine the smile cially retired from the ama-

Robinson and David Jones.

It was her first tournament June, and will probably be her last until she helps to defend the trophy next off my face." Hall now offi-

and Karen Weiss.

boomerang hook and dropped

RESULTS: Semi-finals: J Robins Vale) and D Jones (Three Rivers) of (Camberley Heath) and W Rite HeSSUL19: Semi-timate: J Hoomson (The Vale) and D Jones (Three Rivers) to 16 Smith (Camberley Heath) and W Rite, (Aus) 1 hole, J Hall (Laybert), and H Watsworth (MPGET) to J Kemp and M Wifour (John O'Gaunt) 6 and 5 Final: Hall and

RUGBY UNION

HONG KONG: World Cup Sevens: First round: Pool A: England 33 Canada 12: Zimbabwe 42 Canada 7. England 26 Zimbabwe 42 Canada 7. England 26 Zimbabwe 49 Canada 7. England 26 Zimbabwe 40 Canada 7. England 26 Romana 17 Australia 38 Romana 7 Pool B: Australia 19 Scortland 19 Scortland 26 Romana 17 New Zealand 47 Japan 14, Tonga 35 Japan 7 New Zealand 21 Tonga 7. Pool D: Fiy 59 Portugal 0. Hong Nong 33 Portugal 12 Fip 45 Hong Nong 30 Portugal 27 Fip 45 Hong Nong 30 Portugal 27 Fip 45 Hong Nong 30 Portugal 35 Linded States 5. United States 30 None 27, Finance 38 Portugal 31 Cook Islands 31 Morocco 17; Spain 31 Cook Islands 31 Morocco 17; Spain 31 Cook Islands 31 None 27; Spain 31 Cook Islands 12 Pool 65 South Almaa 45 Augentina 31 Ireland 22; South Almaa 38 Ireland 5 Pool H: Wessem Samoa 31 Ireland 22; South Almaa 38 Namibus 5, Wales 12 Namibus 12 Western Samoa 65 Wales 24 Second-round draw, Pool A: Fin Wales, Namibus Pool B: South Almaa, Hong Kong, Ireland Pool C: Wessern Samoa, Argentina Microcco Pool D: France, United States, Romana Pool E: England, Cook Islands, Canada Pool G: Span, Zimbabwe, Kone Pool H: Australia, Scotland, Portugal

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg:

Latest positions (Sydney to Cape Town, with mass to Cape Town as at 1354 GMT yesterdey) 1. Group 4 3,278 2. Concert

with miles to Cape Town as at 13.54 GMT yesterday? 1, Gloup 4.3279 2, Concert 3.284, 3, Global Teamwork 3.293 4, Save The Children 3.299 5, Toshiba Wave Werror 3.380 6, Commercial (horor 3.330, 7, Malicrole 3.360 B, Crean Rover 3.401.9 Time 8, Tide 3.426, 10, 3.0cm 3.430, 11 Pause to Remember 3.458 12 Countaids international 3.464, 13 Nuclear Electric 3.468, 14, Heath Insured II 3.465

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co Kildare, Benson and Hadgas Irish Masters Ouarter-finals: \$ history (Scall bt J White (Eng) 6-5 P Ebdon (Eng) bt \$ Davis (Eng) 6-1

SOUASH

ANTWERP, Women's Tournament: Quarter-linals; M Martin (Aus.) to N Granger (SA) 9-1, 9-6, 9-6, C Nitch (SA) to M Bell (Aus.) 9-

1,9.1,9.4 R Macree (Erg) or 5 Inving (Aus) 4.9,9.6,9.1,6.9,9.6, J Tranheid (Eng) to R

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton champe-onshipe: Men First round, B Black (Zmito, A Gaudenzi III) 6-2, 6-3, J Stottenberg (Aus) bit J Grabb (US) 6-3, 6-2, M Trischom, Gwel bit J Round (Fri 7-6, 8-1, N Kupter (Ser) bit D van Scheppungen (Holl) 6-2, 5-7, 7-6, F DeWatt (Bel) bit A Hernandez (Men) 7-6, 6-1, M Damm (Gen) bit C Costa (Ser) 6-1, 6-7, 6-4, A Mechicale (US) bit O Raud (No) 6-4, 6-4, 4 M Mechican (US) bit N Gooden (SA) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, H Develmann (Gen) bit Flagorin (Utru) 6-4, 6-4, J Novak (Cz) bit J A Vidoca (Sp) 6-0, 6-3, F Mehgen, (Bu) bit M Goliner

Grinham (Aus) 9-10 9-4 9-2 9-4

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

The match on Monday is vital for both Arsenal and Liverpool, and could well end in a draw but both teams hadly need a win to retain any chance of the title. Ian Wright's return will give added firepower to an Arsenal attack that has been doing surprisingly well without him and Paul Merson, thanks largely to the all-round excellence of Dennis Bergkamp. But can the heavy men in the Arsenal defence cope with the darting raids of Robbie Fowler or the incursions of Steve McManaman? BG

DERBY COUNTY

It is just as well that Dean Sturridge returns from suspension to face Tottenham this afternoon. Derby have struggled up front of late, but after being rebuffed by Tommy Johnson. Jim Smith, the manager, believes he will be unable to bring in reinforcements before the deadline unless a work permit for Paulo Wanchope, the Costa Rica striker, arrives next week. "I thought we would have the strikers to get the necessary goals this season but that has not been the case," Smith said.

ASTON VILLA

Villa's pursuit of a place in the Uefa Cup next season is being hampered by a dismal away record that shows few signs of improving. They have not won on their travels since early December, when they beat Southampton 1-0 at The Dell. "We've let ourselves down," Andy Townsend, the Villa captain, said. "It's just got to get better." This afternoon, Villa visit Blackburn Rovers, who have put together a ninematch unbeaten run in the league at Ewood Park since November.

EVERTON

Everton's recent form - only two Premiership wins in 13 outings — is a mystery to Joe Royle, the manager, but not half as bizarre as the latest inquiry for Paul Rideout, his much-travelled striker. Rideout, 32, has stirred the interest of the all-conquering Chinese club, Huan Dao Vanguards. Royle says the deal is a "possibility" but, apparently, will only entertain it if, in return, Vanguards part with their prolific and highly-rated forward, Huan Elluva Gol. RK

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

His appearance is particularly timely, given that he has just begun contract talks to keep him with the club for a further four seasons. "It has been frustrating for me, but I'm hopeful that I will be able to establish myself in the side

and that I will be able to sign a new deal to keep me here," he said. Collins and

Humphreys will contest the shirt vacated by Atherton, the injured captain, and

Pembridge returns after suspension. DM

SUNDERLAND

Twenty years after cheering

Sunderland on from the Fulwell End, Chris Waddle

After playing just two games all

season, Lee Briscoe returns.

BLACKBURN ROVERS

The time of year when clubs become distinctly twitchy about their players travelling on international duty has arrived again. Colin Hendry has been playing for a

few weeks with a groin injury and Blackburn are reluctant to let such a significant player risk further aggravation while playing for his country. Tony Parkes. the caretaker-manager, said: We are prepared to play him if he is not 100 per cent fit, [but] we are unsure if he should do that at international level."

LEEDS UNITED

George Graham continues to

reconstruct Leeds in his inimitably solid, successful and utterly soporific style. However, the rebellion appears to have already started - Carlton Palmer, with his transfer talk, and Tony Yeboah, with his shirt-throwing, providing welcome sources of entertainment. Yeboah has mysteriously declared himself unfit for the game against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough today. Apparently, he has a severe dose of hategeorgeitis.

HOW THEY STAND

Manchester United 30

5 Chelsea 30 6 Sheffield Wednesday .. 30

Liverpool.

Z Asten Villa. 8 Wimbledon

9 Leeds: Tottenham.

71 Leicester... 12 Blackburn

13 Everton 14 Derby 15 Sunderland

16 West Ham...

17 Coventry 18 Nottinghem Forest 19 f Middlesbrough

3 Arsenal.

CHELSEA Can Middlesbrough's defence

cope with Zola? Chelsea's - recent form has been typically - erratic slavers of Sunderland, staccato against Southampton, when Grodas, in goal, was inspired. Roud Gullit, the manager, admirs that even with Frank Leboeuf, who has been missing lately, Chelsea can be troubled by high balls, but against Southampton their defence did not look too happy on the ground either. Juninho will be the main problem if Ravanelli does not play.

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester opened their account

for the season when they beat Southampton in August, with Emile Heskey scoring what Martin O'Neill, the manager, described as a "wonder goal". If Leicester's continuing presence away from the relegation area has surprised pundits, then the development of Heskey certainly has not. "He could play anywhere on the field and in many cases

probably better than the players there already." O'Neill said. Poole continues to

deputise for Keller in goal.

COVENTRY CITY Most matches at this stage of

Most matches at this stage of the season range from impartant and pivotal to vinal test crucial. Coventry's game against West Ham today transcends such cliches and is, without doubt, the mother of all six-pointers. Gordon Strachan, the Coventry player-manager, will be callinged to the father of one of his players, who recently had an altercation with a who recently had an altercation with a member of the Fourth Estate.

LIVERPOOL

You have to hand it to Robbie Fowler: he certainly knows how to make an impact. His Tshirt stunt caused a few waves after the European victory on Thursday, but perhaps more enduring will be the impression left by his two goals. Surely the young Liverpool forward will now get the opportunity for his country that his form has demanded. He is, he says, ready: In the past I may have appeared a little immature, but I can assure the manager that is not the case now."

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MANCHESTER UNITED United's stroll in Oporto, per-haps more for the players than

the fans, will have revived the club's aspirations of greatness. The European Cup, the crème de la crème, beckons. So it is perhaps appropriate that Manchester has been chosen for the site of the International Football Hall of Fame, which will feature the sport's leading players through the ages. Voting is already underway for the "Hall of Famers", with the early frontrunners being Beckham, Cantona, Schmeichel, Giggs ...

MIDDLESBROUGH

With Fabrizio Ravanelli having flown to Italy for treatment on a tweaked hamstring yesterday. Middlesbrough lack their leading scorer for the meeting today with Cheisea. The likely duel between Festa and Mark Hughes promises to be a spicy sub-plot. Bryan Robson, the manager, attempted to sign Ruud Gullit, now the manager of Chelsea, in 1995 but Gullit declared that he "had never heard of Middlesbrough" Teesside hopes that he will have bad memories of the place by tonight.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Last five lge games MDM7M MDM7M

MDMTD MDMTD TDFMM MMTM

TWMDF DWMM

WDDWL

DLDLW

DLWL

LLWLL

WLWDD

MTTDD

+26 +26 +25

60

57 57

49 48

45

32

30 29

--- + Middlesbrough deducted three points

. 29 28 -8 . 30 26 -12

-19

30 38 30 36

Sir John Hall had had the smile wiped off his face even before the miserable events of Tuesday evening. After a convivial lunch with Prince Rainier before the Uefa Cup tie against Monaco, he was confronted by a French journalist, "What," he was asked, "can you say about Newcastle's attempt to sign Sammer?" Judging by the thunderous look on his face, there was something in it — and Sir John's explana-tion that Newcastle are looking for players of such quality betrayed much. of such quality betrayed much.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

The next two games could decide the fate of a club once again ensconced in the bottom three. Forest visit Sunderland this afternoon and Middlesbrough on Monday, both opponents struggling against relegation themselves. Van Hooijdonk has added thrust to the attack. but for how long will Saunders remain alongside him? The Wales forward has scored just three times in the league this season, and Moore, signed from Tranmere, must be under consideration. RH

SOUTHAMPTON

Despite being selected again for the England squad, Mattor the England squad, Maithew Le Tissier is having trouble getting into the Southampton starting line-up. Graeme Souness, the manager, feels that a groin injury means that the player is not fit to play 90 minutes. Le Tissier, who came on after 52 minutes of the defeat at Chelsea, disagrees. Definitely missing from the team to play Leicester are Claus Lundekvam and Jason Dodd, who is out for a month with a

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

recurrence of a cartilage problem.

Tottenham's recent mini-revival - a sequence of three matches unbeaten — has probably come too late to revive their hopes of European competition next season. Not surprisingly, it has done little, either, to alleviate the gloom of the Tottenham Action Group, a small yet vigorous and vociferous band of tortured souls. "If the team can draw 30,000 crowds in its present feeble situation," a spokesman said,

finally pulls on the red and white stripes today, making his debut against Nottingham Forest Ironically, Waddle almost joined Forest from Bradford City two weeks ago. Peter Reid, the manager, trusts that his new recruit will lift his players, exorcising the memory of the 6-2 thrashing at Chelsea last week and, more importantly, hauling Sunderland clear of relegation danger.

WEST HAM UNITED

With the visit to Coventry City today being followed by matches against Middlesbrough and Southampton, West Ham's destiny will be shaped over the next three weeks. "It is a vital game at Highfield Road and we need to get something out of it," Harry Redknapp, the manager, said yesterday. They do, too - fixture rescheduling means that the last three games of their campaign will be against Sheffield Wednes-day, Newcastle United and Manchester

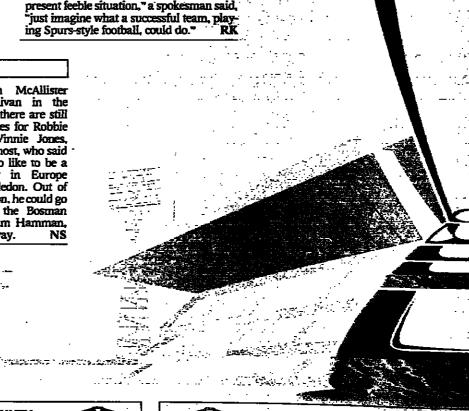
WIMBLEDON

abroad for nothing under the Bosman ruling. Negotiations with Sam Hamman.

the club's owner, are under way.

Although Brian McAllister joins Neil Sullivan in the Scotland squad, there are still no England places for Robbie Earle and Chris Perry. Vinnie Jones, captain, actor and chatshow host, who said this week that he would also like to be a player-manager, may play in Europe whatever happens to Wimbledon. Out of contract at the end of the season, he could go

Reports: Brian Glanville, Russell Kampson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepenik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough



BLACKBURN ROVERS v ASTON VILLA

10-YEAR RECORD: -..1-1, -., -., -., 3-0, 1-0, 3-1, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenne, G Le Seux, C Hendry, H Berg, T Sherwood, G Filtzroft, W McKinlay, J Wilcox, P Peddersen, K Gallacher, C Sutton, N Marker, G Donis, P Warthurst, S Given, D Duff, L Bohinen, G Fenton;

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Bosnich, F. Nelson, A. Wright, U. Ehiogu, S. Staunton, D. Hughes, R. Scimeca, I. Taylor, A. Townsend, M. Draper, D. Yorke, J. Joechim, T. Johnson, C. Hendrie, N. Davis, S. Murray,



MIDDLESBROUGH Y CHELSEA

TICKETS: Seets available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 0-0, —, —, 2-0. HOW THEY LINE UP MIDDLESBROUGH (from): M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Pearson, G Feate, C Blackmore, P Starrip, Emerson, C Hignett, Juninho, M Beck, C Fleming, A Moore, B Roberts, D Wnyte, S Vickers, A Omnerod,

CHELSEA (from): F Grodes, D Petrescu, F Sinclair, S Clarke, E Johnsen, S Minto, C Burley, R Di Matteo, D Wise, M Hughes, G Zola, P Hughes, A Myers, N Colgan, J Morris, G Vlatt, P Parker.

TOMOBROV



WIMBLEDON V NEWCASTLE UNITED TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 0-0, 4-0, --, --, --, 4-2, 3-2, 3-3. HOW THEY LINE UP WIMBLEDON (from): N Suffiven, K Cunningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, C Perry, B McAlfister, A Reeves, D Jupp, N Arolley, R Earle, P Fear, S Castledine, M Harford, O Leonardson, E Ekoku, D Hoklaworth, M Gayle, J Eueli.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Histop, P Smicek, W Barton, J Beresford, D Batty, D Peacock, R Lee, P Beardeley, F Asprille, R Elliott, D Ginola, K Gillespie, S Watson, L Clark, P Albert, J Crawford.



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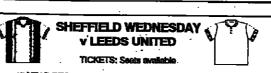
COVENTRY CITY V WEST HAM UNITED



10-YEAR RECORD: 1-3, 0-0, 1-1, --, --, 1-0, --, 1-1, 2-0, 2-2.

HOW THEY LINE UP COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, R Shaw, G Breen, D Dublin, A Evtushok, M Hall, P Williams, P Telfer, N Whelan, E Jess, K Richardson, G McAllister, D Huckerby, P Ndlovu, W Boland, D Burrows, J Fitan,

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Mildosko, T Breacker, J Dicks, S Potts, I Blahop, M Rieper, P Kitson, J Hartson, K Rowland, H Porfino, I Dowie, J Moncur, S Lazaridis, L Sealey, R Ferdinand, S Bilic, M Omonimyni, S Maan

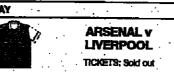


10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, --, 1-6, 1-1, 3-3, 1-1, 6-2. **HOW THEY LINE UP**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, I Notan, L Briscoe, S Nicol, D Walker, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge, R Humphreys, G Whittingham, B Carbone, R Blinker, D Hirst, A Booth, W Collins, M Williams, S Oakes, O Donaldson, M Clarke.

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, L Radebe, D Wetherall, L Sherpe, I Rush, B Desne, L Bowyer, G Helle, I Herts, R Molenaer, G Kelly, A Dorigo, M Beeney, M Ford, M Jackson, R Wallace, A Gray, A Couzens.

MONDAY





HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): D Seamen, L Dixon, A Adams, P Vielra, M Keown, S Bouldt, N Winterburn, R Parlour, D Plett, D Bergkamp, I Wright, M Rose, R Garde, S Marshall, S Morrow, J Lukic, L Harper, P Shaw, S Hughes, N Anelka.

LIVERPOOL (from): D. James, D. Matteo, R. Jones, S.I. Bjomebye, J. McAteer, M. Wright, N. Ruddock, P. Babb, J. Barnes, S. McMariemen, M. Thomas, J. Redknapp, S. Collymore, R. Fowler, S. Harkness, M. Kennedy, A. Warner, L. Jones, P. Berger, B.T. Kvarme.



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, D Anderton, E Sheringham, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Carr, J Dozzell, S Nethercott, E Baardsen, A Nielsen, R Allen, J Scales, D Austin, S Iversen. SOUTHAMPTON V

DERBY COUNTY v

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

10-YEAR RECORD: --, 1-2, 1-1, 2-1, 0-1, --, --, --, --, --.

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): M Taylor, J Laursen, P McGrath, G Rowett, L Carsley, R van der Laan, C Dality, D Powell, C Powell, P Trollope, A Asanovic, A Ward, D Sturridge, I Stimac, M Carbon, P Simpson,



TICKETS: Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, --, --, --, --, --, --, --, 2-2, --.

HOW THEY LINE UP SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, S Charlton, R Dryden, U van Gobbel, J Magilton, E Berkovic, R Slater, M Oaldey, M Evans, M Le Tissier, E Ostenstad, A Nelson, F Benall, N Meddison, S Basham,

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Poole, S Grayson, J Lewrence, J Watts, S Weish, S Prior, M Elliott; M Whitlow, P Kaamark, S Guppy, N Lennon; M tzzet, S Taylor, S Campbell, S Wilson, S Ctaridge, M Flobins, E Heskey, I Marshall, I Andrews.



10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, 3-4, --, --, --, 1-2, 2-2, --, 1-1. HOW THEY LINE UP MIDDLESBROUGH (from): M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Peerson, G Festa, C Blackmore, P Starro, Ernerson, C Hignett, Jurenho, M Beck, C Fleming, A Moore, B Roberts, D Whyte, S Vickers, A Ormanod, M Surramerball.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, A I Haaland, I Woan, S Geramil, D Saunders, P van Hooijdonk, I Moore, B O'Neil, B Roy, J Lee, S Guinen, S Blatherwick, A Fettle, N Jerken.



EVERTON v MANCHESTER UNITED TICKETS: Seats available

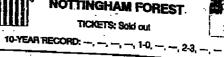
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 2-1, 1-1, 3-2, 0-1, 0-0, 0-2, 0-1, 1-0, 2-3.

HOW THEY LINE UP EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Barrett, A Hinchcliffe, D Unsworth, T Phelan, D Watson, C Short, J Parkinson, D Ferguson, G Speed, G Stuart, M Branch, P Rideout, M Hottiger, J Speare, C Thomsen, N Barmby.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin; D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, O G Solskjaer, A Cole, P Neville, K Poborsky, J Cruyff, B McClair,



SUNDERLAND V NOTTINGHAM FOREST



HOW THEY LINE UP SUNDERLAND (from): L Parez, G Half, D Kubicki, R Ord, L Howey, D Kelly, K Balf, P Bracewell, M Gray, C Waddle, P Stewart, M Bridges, A Rae, J Mullin, C Russell, D Praece, D Williams.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Philipps, Al Heatland, I Woan, S Germmill, D Saunders, P van Hooljdonk, I Moore, B O'Neil, B Roy, J Lee, S Guinan, S Blatherwick, A Fettis.



The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/



FOOTBALL

Strachan searches for key to survival

BY RICHARD HOBSON

NINE times in the 30 seasons since winning promotion under Jimmy Hill, Coventry City have been unable to confirm their survival in the top flight until the final day of the season. After sailing so close to the wind in the past, this could be the year in which they are finally blown over.

They entertain West Ham United this afternoon, knowing that anything other than a win could push them into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership. Fourth from bottom, they have taken just two points from their past five games, the worst record in the Premiership. West Ham have managed to crawl out of the bottom three during the same period and sit one place above

So what is new? Does history not dictate that such perennial strugglers were bound to be in this predicament? In fact, this season was meant to be different. The present squad has been assembled at a cost of beyond £20 million and, even in these inflated times, such a level of investment demands higher reward than mere survival. Coventry began badly

under the management of Ron Atkinson and, except for a run of four successive wins in December under his replacement, Gordon Strachan, they have fared little better since. But for that mini-revival, they would be practically doomed

The 4-0 defeat at Newcastle United last Saturday prompted Strachan to think deeply about his strategy. Inevitably. it raised plenty of questions and not many answers.

"I wonder if some of the players think that, because we are Coventry City, we are bound to get out of trouble because that has always happened in the past," he said.
"The fact is that we are on a downward slide and we have subva

to alter that by our own efforts. At the start of the season, I never imagined we would be in this position because of the quality of the players in the squad. So what does that tell you? Are the players not as good as people think? Are some of them living on their reputations? Frankly, 1 am baffled, but one thing I do know is that we are not near

the bottom by accident." Strachan cancelled a players' day off this week. Instead, on Tuesday, he took the side paint-balling, a game which involves teams replicating warfare by firing pellets of paint at each other from customised rifles. The manager - and his car - came off

The game is favoured by large businesses, who send their employees on "exercise" to foster corporate bonding. In football, the word is teamwork. "I always put great importance on togetherness because, without that, it is impossible to play well and enjoy the game." Strachan

☐ Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, has opted for an experienced squad, more than half of whom are 30 or over, for the World Cup qualifying ties against Estonia next Saturday and Austria on April 2.

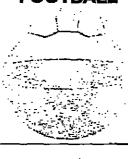
"We have a squad with some older and experienced players, but that can be to my advantage." Brown said. "Many of the players know that they are playing for a last crack at the World Cup finals in France next year."

in France next year."

SCOTLAND: T Boyd (Caltic), C Burley (Chelses), C Calderwood (Totherham Hotspur), J Collins (AS Monacol), D Ferguson (Everton), I Ferguson (Engles), S Gentmall (Nothingham Forest), C Henniky (Blackburn Rovers), S Howie (Mohthewell), D Jackson (Hoemian), E Jess (Coventry City), P Lembert (Bourses) Dottmand, J Leighton (Homian), B MoAllister (Wimbledom), G MoAllister (Coventry City), A McColst (Engers), J McGanky (Botton Wanderens), T McKinky (Caltic), W McKinky (Blackburn Rovers), A McLeren (Fangers), P McCaltic), J Spencer (Chelsest), P

Manager true to his beliefs

STEVE GRITT THE FACE OF **FOOTBALL**



By Nick Szczepanik

t is a surname to live up to, but when Steve Gritt, the manager of Brighton and Hove Albion, bottom club in the Nationwide League, describes himself as "Gritt by name and grit by nature", it is without irony or arrogance. Rather, he is modestly

agreeing with the assessment of Garry Nelson, who wrote of his then joint-manager at Charlton Athletic, in his book Left Foot Forward: "Steve's strength and weaknesses as a player were visibly weighted towards the commitment end of the scale rather than the subtle. But those same characteristics stand him in very good stead as a manager."

When Gritt joined Brighton in December, thick skin and an ability to work miracles seemed more essential than the determination and commitment that his name suggests. Brighton were 11 points behind the team in 91st place, with relegation to the Vauxhall Conference a virtual certainty. Yet that appeared the least

of their worries as supporters' anger at the sale of the Goldstone Ground by an unpopular board of directors events on the field. To call the atmosphere unwelcoming is an understatement; the writing, in the form of anti-Gritt graffiti, was on the wall the day he arrived.

"The supporters didn't want anyone to take the job," Gritt recalled. "I didn't expect to be received with open arms, but the depth of their feelings towards the board took me by surprise. I've since been to a meeting with

Clyde v Livingston
 Hamilton v Stenhousemur



one of the supporters' groups and listened to things they've had to say. It wasn't really me they were having a go at. I had a good rapport with the supporters at Charlton and I knew what it was like for them when they had to leave The Valley." That rapport was built over

a total of 18 years that Gritt had spent at Charlton, first as a player, making 380 appearances in midfield in the top three divisions, then as jointmanager for four years with Alan Curbishley — the first joyed it. It was a good grounding, but it got to a stage where we sat in an office too long, talking about the team, going round the offices and wouldn't get as far as we'd like to. Mr Murray [the managing director] de-cided he only wanted one man in charge, which was

why I left."
The parting was, under-standably, traumatic. "To be told in ten minutes, after 18 years at a club, that you are no longer wanted, is hard to accept, but I have no probsuch arrangement at a lems going back there," Gritt League club. "We set the said. He continues to play for lems going back there," Gritt pattern." Gritt said. "I en- a Charlton veterans team and

holds season tickets at The Valley, but the 18 months of scouting and occasional appearances for Welling United and Tooting and Mitcham that followed his departure were difficult. "I thought, perhaps naively, that I'd find work quite soon after leaving Charlton," he said.

Recognition came eventually with the post that it was widely thought nobody would want, but Gritt beat 50 or so rivals to the Goldstone hot seat. His first task was to persuade the players to ig-nore off-the-field problems and then to restore confidence. "Everyone had given up hope but I've got players hère who have a lot of talent." He harnessed the talent

effectively enough to have narrowed the gap between Brighton and safety to one point by early March and was named manager of the month for February. As so often, the award proved a poisoned chalice and results last weekend saw the gap standing at four points.

"Our away performances haven't got the points they deserve," he said. "Last week, at Hull, it just looked a matter of time before we scored. Then one of their guys larrups one in from 30 yards."

t was also wrongly suggested in a local newspaper that Gritt had ntemplated resigning after incidents in the last home game, against Leyton Orient. "I'm not a quitter," he said. "Even if the worst comes to the worst, I'll see the job through."

The Brighton supporters, once so hostile, will be relieved to hear it; Gritt, in turn, paid tribute to them. "To get 9,000 at the last home game was unbelievable. The support base is better than any club in division three, or division two."

And, dare one add, the Vauxhall Conference? Gritt nodded. "We have some tough games, but if at Christmas you had said that we would still have a chance of avoiding relegation they'd have snapped your hand off. We've got eight games left today they play Cardiff City at the Goldstone and they'll be eight battles." Spoken with true ... det-

ermination? Commitment? No, there is really only one

Le Tissier's fitness provokes familiar argument

By Russell Kempson

CLUB versus country is a thorny problem that has dogged British football for decades. Yesterday, in the latest episode, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, were involved in an undignified dispute about the fitness of Matthew Le Tissier. the Southampton playmaker.

Hoddle has selected Le Tissier in his squad for the international match against Mexico at Wembley a week today. Although Souness had said earlier this week that Le Tissier was struggling with foot and groin injuries, Hoddle claimed that Le Tissier had confirmed his fitness when he spoke to him.

However, Souness disputed yesterday Hoddle's version of events. "I spoke to Matt after he received the call from Glenn and he said that he was going to tell Glenn that he didn't feel he could do himself justice because of the injuries." Souness said. "But Glenn has has insisted on putting out a story totally different to the one Matt told me."

Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Middlesbrough striker, may miss the Coca-Cola Cup final against Leicester City at Wembley on April 6. Ravanelli, scorer of 26 goals this season, has flown to his native Italy for treatment on a torn hamstring.

"We're not quite sure of the extent of the damage, but he could be out for two to three weeks," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-man-ager, said yesterday. "Person-ally, I think he's got a good chance of making the final because he's a good healer." Robson is also planning to

speak to Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, to try to secure the release of Juninho, the Middlesbrough midfield player, from Brazil's game against Chile four days before the Chile four days before the Coca-Cola Cup decider.
ENGLAND UNDER-21 SCUAD (v Switzerland, at Swindon Town, April 1): B Roberts (Middlesbrough), C Dev (Crystal Paleoe); P Neville (Marchester United), J Carbon (Deby County), R Scimece (Aston Villa), M Rose (Assoral), M Broomes (Blackburn Rovers), R Ferdinand (Mest Ham United), M Hall (Coversity City), L Bowyer (Leeds United); L Briscoe (Sheffield Wednesday), S Hughes (Assoral), P Sturre (Middlesbroughy, J Morris (Chelsea), J Carragher (Liverpool), L Heardine (Aston Villa), M Bridges (Sunderland), R Humphrays (Sheffield Wednesday), M Branch (Everton), D Huckerby (Covernity City).

Courage Clubs Championship

Blackheath v Nottingham London Scottish v Coventry Newcastle v Moseley Rotharham v Bedford

Bristot v Sale Gloucester v Leicester

Second division

Third division

Kendel v Sandal Manchester v Hereford Nuneaton v Sheffield

Marseilles expected to persuade Ginola to take wing

By Russell Kempson

MARSEILLES are favourites to sign David Ginola, the unsettled Newcastle United winger, after Kenny Dalglish. the Newcastle manager, confirmed yesterday that the player had asked for a transfer. However, Ginola was still included in the squad to play Wimbledon in the FA Carling Premiership at Selhurst Park tomorrow.

"David has asked for a move and that will be dealt with in due course," Dalglish said. The club will discuss it and make its decision. David will be the first to know the answer. As long as he's here, he's going to be an asset and do the best he can for the club. I'm sure there won't be any adverse reaction from him."

Ginola, 30, has repeatedly expressed his disappointment at being left on the substitutes bench since Dalglish replaced Kevin Keegan at St James' Park in January. He stayed in France, preferring not to return with the Newcastle party after the 3-0 defeat by AS Monaco in the Uefa Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday.

Marseilles made their interest known earlier this month when they contacted Jean-Francois Larios, Ginola's personal manager. Ginola, a £2.5 million buy from Paris Saint-Germain, had com-plained that he was being mucked about by Dalglish.

Franz Beckenbauer, who is spearheading Germany's at-tempts to host the 2006 World Cup finals ahead of England, is worried that competition between the countries could harm each other's chances of staging the tournament. Yet, although he fears a third country could enter the race with a late, successful bid, he has ruled out suggestions of a joint effort from England and Germany. "If you can't organise a

World Cup on your own, you should leave it." Beckenbauer, the former Germany coach and captain, said.

Uefa, the sport's European governing body, will support only one country and will meet in Switzerland on April 17 to decide. The ultimate decision will be made by Fifa.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL (1) Blackburn v Aston Villa (2) Coventry v West Ham (3) Derby v Tottenham Middlesbrough v Chelsea Shelfield Wednesday v Leeds

AND THE

Notem For..... 37 . 6 11 14 . 26 . 47 . 29 1 Maddlestato 29 8 7 14 . 42 . 51 . 29 . Southermotion 30 . 6 8 16 . 37 . 49 . 26 (9) Birmingham v Sheffield Utd . (10) Bradford v Wolverhampton .

(17) Reading v lpswich (18) Southend v Oxford Little

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: rstone v Hastings; Baldock v Aerford Instord v Nuneston; Chatterhem Atherstone v Nastings: Baldock v Ashford: Cheinstord V Numeston; Cresterium v Burton Abon; Crawley v Gravesend and Northfleet, Gresley v Marthyr; Saltsbury v Cambridge City. Stitingtourne v Halesower; Sudbury In v Newport AFC; Wortasher City v King's Lynn. Midland division: Bedward v Shepshed D; Corby v Solthul Boro; Dudley Town v Sulton Coldfield Town; Evesham v Raunds T; Hinckley Town v Reddactr, Moor Green v Balstort; Paget R v Reddactr v Moor Green v Balstort; Paget R v Restort, RC Warwick v Stafford; Stoutsridge v Greatharn; Tarmworth v VS Rugby, Southern division: Cinderland v Waymouth; Crencester Town v Trombodge; Cleradon v Tonbridge Angels; Dartford v Fischam; Friher London v Buckongham Town; Pleet T v Yate; Hawart v Weston-auger-Newport (priv) v Erith and Belvedere; St Leonards v Bastriey; Waterlooville v Morgete; Winney v Forest Green SMIRNOFF (RISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballyclare v Lame; Bengor v Omagit; Distley v V Ballyment; Neury v Cartick. FAI MARP LAGER: NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballyclare v Lame; Bengor v Omagit; Distley v Ballyment; Neury v Cartick. FAI MARP LAGER: NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Beny v Stigo (7:30). PRESS & JOURINAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE; Busher in Thisle v Keth; Cove v Fraserburgh; Fort William v Peterhead; Hurtily v Broaz. Naim Courty v Claothracuddin.

(20) Blackpool v Bristot City [21) Bournemouth v York

Second division (---) Ayr v Dumbarton (---) Repulck v Prachic

Third division

Valotrali Conference

 Sromsgrove v Hayes
 Famborough v Northwich
 Hedneslord v kattering
 Macclesfield v Gateshead Morecambe v Dover Rushden and Diamonds v Telford Slough v Southport Statybridge v Kidderminster

- Welling v Altrincham (—) Welling v Altrinctam

FA CAPL SSERG VASE: Semi-finals, second leg: North Femily v Guisborough

Town: Whithy v Bensteed Ath

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Fourth round:
Bishop Auddend v Gloucester; Dagentum

and Redbridge v Astron United; Heybridge

v Wolung: Stevenage v Colwyn Bay

UMBROND LEAGUE: Premier devision:
Alfretan v Benther Bridge, Bentow v Blyth

Spertents; Baston v Knowsky, Gainsborough v Lancaster; Guiseley v Leek;

Hyde v Emiley: Pluncom v Frickley. Spertans: Boston v Intronsey, borough v Lancaster: Guiseley v Leek, hyde v Emley: Runcom v Finckley Spernymoor v Accringon Sanley; Winstord v Chorley. First division: Athenon IR v Mattick, Town, Congleton v Bradford PK Aue; Filton v Grotina, Great Hanwood v Eastwood Town: Harrogate Town v Leight Lincoln United v Droyletten, Nighterfield v Fersley Cettic: Whitely Bay v Warmigton; Workington v Stocksbridge PS; Worksop v Curcon Ashton.

Wycombe ... 36 10 6 18 36 49 Peterborough 37 8 12 17 47 66 Rotherham ... 36 5 13 18 29 51 Notts County 36 5 12 19 26 47 1) Cambridge Utd v Chester 2) Full-ram v Hertlepool 1) Hull v Carlisle

Bell's Scottish League (40) Dundee Utd v Raith First division

(48) St Johnstone v Stirling (49) St Mirren v Airdrie

-) Queen of South v Stramaer Third division --) Arbroath v Inverness CT (--) Cowdenbeath v Forfar (--) Montrose v Albion (--) Queen's Park v Alloa (--) Ross County v East Stirling

(—) Ross County v East Stirling
(CS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortlord v Sution United; Borefram Wood v Staines: Bismiley v Greys, Carshalton v Kingstonian; Cherisey v Si Albeirs; Hendon v Hamour, Oxford Cay v Duwich; Veading v Purffeet Yeovil v Ayesbury First division: Abengdon Town v Tooting and Micham, Berton Rovers v Albeirsh Town: Bilencary v Bognor Regis; Chesham v Whyleleate Croydon v Berhlamsted: Maidenhead United v Worthing; Marlow v Besingshoke Migesey v Thame, Dubindge v Leyton Pennent; Walton and Hersham v Histopton, Wolungham v Carney Island Second division: Bracknel v Dorlung Challont Stepter v Barking; Cheshum v Horsham Colifer Row and Romford v Wembley Edyware v Tibury, Hungerford v Hemperstead; Leatherhead v Bedford T Ware v Egham; Windsor and Eton v Metropolitan Police; Witham v Leighton Town Third division: Brantine v Martinvoch, Capton v Harlow, Epsom and Ewel v Cambelley, Hornchurch v East Thurnoch; Jungsbury v Readwell Heasth Lewak v Timg Southalf v Wealdstone: Wingale and Finchley v Medicatone:

Aveley.

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES. Aberystwyth v Rhyt Bangor Cay v Welshpool Barry
v Connah's Cusy. Combran v Caemarton
blow Vale v Cernaes Bay (2 30). Holywell v
Briton Fore: I lans antified u Destronation Pentre v Cersius
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier divisiont: Bentwood v Saltron Walden.
Burnham Remblers v Ford United East
Ham v Stansted, Great Walvening a Bower's
Hulthridge Sports v Bassiden U Blord v
Saerbridgeworth; Southend Manor v Eron
Manor COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEA COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v. Ferham Bediont v. Mersham, Comminan-Casuals v. Famham. Cove v. Cobham, Harris Winney. Watton Casuals. Raynes Park Valle v. Cran-leigh, Reading Town v. Neihemer. Sanchus v. Chipsead, Viking Sports v. Godalming and Guildford. Woshfield v. Ashford.

† Brighton . 38 9 8 21 45 65 33

Bristol Rovers v Presion DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern di-vision: Buckinghem Town v St Leonards FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bray v UCD (2.15), Home Farm v Bohelmans (3.15) ra vromen's PREMIER LEAGUE: Nat-ional division: Neston Town v Arsenal (al New Manor Ground, 2 01 South-empton v Doncaster (al AFC Totton 2.0). Wemblev v Croydon (al Velle Farm, Wemblev, 2.0; League Cup: Final; Milwas v Everion (al Barnet FC, 2.30). FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE! Net-FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern di-

Nationwide League

Second division

Oldham v Crystal Palace (1 0)

First division

Margaesson y Woodood Minierva South Midelands League: Premier division: Arlesey y Potters Bar, Eggleswade y London Coliney, Brache Spara y Royston, Harpenden y Bedtord, Todongion SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEA-JEWSON EASTERN GUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Felosiewe P and T. Diss v Newmarket, Fallenham v Woodbindge Town, Great Yamfodh v Warboys, Hadlegh U v March, JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Whitchurch, Andover v East Coules, BAT v Gospott, Bernerlon Heath v Perersheld; Bournemouth v Romsey Christoburch v Totton, Cowes Wimbome Town v Blockenhursi UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First

Peacenaven and Teiscombe
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First
division: Faversham v Beckenham, Furness v Thamesmead: Greenarch v Canterbury, Hythe v Folkestone InvitatLordswood v Connthian; Ramsgale v
Chatham, Tuntondge Weils v Whitstable
Town Cup Semi-final, first leg: Sheopley v
Cay Slade Green v Herre Bay

LEAGUEL BACKER. Becaring divisions. Clay Slade Green v Herrie Bay HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Barbury v Endsleigh, Breester v Wantage, Brackley v Abrigdon United, Burnham v Ammondsbury Didoot v Fairtodt Highworth v Carenton Shortwood v Kintbury, Tuffley v

Swindon Supermanne
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUIE: Premier division: Rosion v
kernsston, Cogenhoe v Long Bud-by,
Holbeach v Ford Sports Mirries Blackstone v Weilingborough, Newport Pagnell v
Eversburn, Potion v Woonon, Spalding v
Horthampton Spencer, S and L Corby v
Bourne Cup: Semi-final: Desborough v
Storteid INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwel

Live Town v Wolvernampion C Malvern T v Hill Top 5 Statland T v Wodnesheld;

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First vvycumbe v toterinam (11 U)
OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division:
Cardinal Menning OB v Clepham OX, Glyn
OB v Old Ignatiens, Lalymer OB v Old
Meadonians; Old Aloysians v Old
Kingsbunans; Old Vaughanians v Old
Hamplonians ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barvell v Blorwich Town Blakenhall v Oldbury U, Bolarmae St M v Persall v Chaselown v Houseley Alniete Halesowen H v Rushall O, Brogster v Perstore T, Sandwell v Bridgrooth Shimall v Willenhall, Stepenhall v Engressley V Stationd T v W Mid Potce BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier dension: Blorwich S v Cradley Town. Buerley Hail T v Gornal Res. Defastion v Warsall Whod Etingshall Hr v Sourpoil S, tye Town v Wolverhampion C Malveth Tv

BNDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community College V David Lloyd AFC, Bolefall S v Highgate. Knowle v Handraham Timbers; Richmond Swills v Kanakorth Shilley v Massey Ferguson; Studiey BKL v Colleshid. Wefesbourne v Alvecturch; West Midland File Spolice v Wiverstelm. PLICRY | FACILE Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Fire Service v Wordestero.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collegies v Eastwood H; Blacippool Rowers v Glossop North End; Bootte v Safford, Holizer Old Boys v Prescot Cebles: Nidsgrove v Vauxhall GM, Maine Road v Citratere, Mossey v Cheddenoth, Newcastle Town v Burscough; Permith v Rossandale; SI Helens, v Nantwich Town: Treditort v Demen Traitord v Darwen

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN

LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v

Whickham: Consett v Stockton: Duriston
Federation v Morpeth, Durinam v Shikton:
Easington v Bedington Terriers; RTM
Newsaste v South Shields, Tow Law v

Munton, West Audiand v Crook

Mutton, West Auckland v Crook
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE:
Premier division: Armitrorpe Wellare v
Glasshoughton Wellare; Amoid v Thackley;
Ashfield v Sheffield, Brigg Town v Ossett
Albon: Liversedge v Denaby; Maliby MW v
Huchrati Town; Ossett Town v Hallart;
Pickering v Halfield Main; Pontetract Cols v
Setby

SOLITH EAST COLINTIES LEAGUE: First christon: Arsenal v Southend (11 D), Fulham v Cambridge (11 D); Ipowich v Charlion (11 D), Malhwaft v West Harm (11 D); Portsmouth v Norwich (11 D); Douers Park Rengers v Chelsea (11 D); Tottenham v Gallingham (11 D); Mattord v Leyton Overti (11 D); Soumernouth v Southernpton (11 D); Bournernouth v Southernpton (11 D); Enginer v Reading (11 D); Enginer v Colchester (12 D); Bristol City v Bristol Rovers (11 D); Ever Patice v Swindon (11 D); Wycombe v Totenham (11 D)

Wycombe v Totenham (11 D)

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division:

Hampionens
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First
division: Old Esthermeans v Weel Wicombe: National Westminster Bank v Polytechnic; Notsemen v Civil Service: Crouch
End Varignes v Old Actionsins; Easi Barnet
OG v Souths & Old Actionsins; Easi Barnet SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Serio

Chywellians
SCHOOLS MATCHES (luck oft 10.30 unless stated) English Goodyser under18 Trophy: Semi-finat: Nevall Green, Gesler Marchester v Chy School Sheffled, South Yorkshire (at Stretford Victoria, 11.30) London Hewite Trophy; Semi-finat: North Nent v Islington, Crisp Shield: Semi-finat: Redbridge v Newharn Pickford Shield: Semi-finat: Semi-finat Stretfinat propon v Poole. Val Cup: Vale of White Horse v Mid Wits Northern ment: Blackburn v Leeds; Salland v Setion Gibson Trophy; South Surrey v

Croydon, Cosswold Leegue: Mid Oxon Gloucester. Snowdown Cup: Sefton v S Helens. Inter-essociation: Hackney Hartlepool; Luton v Swindon, Kant. 50-8 side championships (al Bastey, 9.30).

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

St Helens v Salford (at Wigan) NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Proreal Lineal, CONFERENCE LEAGUE? Promier division: Lock Lane v Mayheld; Saddeworth v Beverley; West Hull v Wootston First division: Askam v Barrow Island; Bedderook v Leigh East; Outlon v Thomhil; Welney Central v Millorn; Wigan St. Judes v Mickligness Second division; New Earswick v Dewsbury Moor, York Acom v Hull Dockers.

Clitton v Exister
Fylde v Wharledale
Havant v Roselyn Park
Liverpool St Helens v Reading Hull Dockers.

BNF1. NATIONAL CUP: Fifth round:
Askam v Wirgan Tech: BRK v Normenton;
Dudley Hill v Queens: Kells v Wigan St Patis;
Ovenden v Millord; Shaw Cross v Ellenbotought Saddal v Skhraugh; West Bowling
v Clayton v Clayfon
ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: First di-vision: Batiey v London: Widnet v Sheffield.
Second division: Cariste v Lancs Lynx
[2 0]: Hemel Hempstead v Huddershield;
Prescot v Keightley: Rochdale v Barrow Fourth division north Birmingham/Sollhull v

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier Leaguer: Wokingham v Gore Court Hampshire/Surrey: Old Cantelighams v London University Kerd/Sussent Blackheatt v Hame Bay. CLUB MATCHES: Chelmstord v We CLUIS MATURIES: CHEMISTOR V West Herts; Housdow v Cannock: Luton Town v Beshop's Stortford; Nuneatori v Hampton-in-Arderi; Pereforough v Cambridge City; Westbury v Robinsons; Weston-super-Mare v Nawport WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premie

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cition v Tropins (12.30); Hightown v Doncaster (noon); Leicester v (pswich 112.30); Slough v Sutton Carreda Life (2); Plast division: Busherit, v Wimbledon (2.0); Bradford v Brazièrell (1.50); Cantarbury v Bedars (noon); Otton v Chelmstod (2.0); Second division: Ealing v West Wimey (1.15); Loughborough Students v Eomouth (2.30); Sherwood v Okid Loughtoriers (noon); Wolong v St Albers (2.0). WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: St Fagans : Carditl Athletic, Swensea v Cardifl Cardiff Artheric; Swensea v Cardiff.
WCMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: EastAstrord v Bury St Edmunds; Berdeyheath v
Herleston Megples, Ipswich v Cambridge
Cry; Sevenoeks v Welvyn Gerden Cily
Midlends: Hempton-n-Arden v Bedford:
Leicester v Keltering; Pickwick v Crimson
Ramblets: West Bromwich v Aktindge.
North: Cardisle v Blackburn; Chester v
Poynton; Shetfield v York; Welson v
Liverpool. South: Dulwich v Worthing.
Harrupstead v Winchmore Hill; Horisham v
Southampton; Tulse Hill v Reading; Winchester v City of Pottsmouth. West:
Cheltenham v Rediand; Colwell v Eveter,
Leominster v Bournemouth; St Austell v
Yote.

SOUTH WEST: First division: Bristiam v Gloucester Old Boys: Camborne v Bernstaple; Launceston v Bridgweter; Matson v Strouct; Sallsbury v Si Was; Torquey v Maidemhead. Torquey v Maidenhead.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Besingstoke v Norwich; Guntland and Godalming v Esher, Did Collegars v Russlip; Old Mid-Whightans v Southend; Thurnock v Sutton and Epsom;

wwnpacon v sames.
MIDLANDS: First division: Leighton Buz-zard v Hinckley; Monsileid v Derby: Scurlytope v Camp Hit, Stallord v Burlor Stockwood Park v Broadstreet; Syston v Belgnave; Wastleigh v Barkers Butts: Belgrave; Wasteligh v Barl Whitchurch v Wolverhampton. NORTH: First division: Bractiond and Bingley v New Brighton: Bridlington v Broughton Perk, Hulf Ionanas v Tynedale; Sedgley Park V Wigton; Widnes v Macolec-field; West Park Bramhope v Stockton REU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Semi-fina Doncaster v Middlesbrough (at Otley); Sudbury v Thanet Wanderers (at Henley).

Askeans v Camberlay
Barking v Henley
Barty Hill v Weston-super-Mere
Cheaton Park v Mietropolitan Police
High Wycombe v Cheltenham
Newbury v North Walsham
Plymouth v Tabard

Anglo-Welsh Cup Pool 2B Nonhamoton y Newport Swalec Cup

Ouzster-finals Cardiff v South Wales Police (2 30) Ebbw Vale v Bridgend Lianell v Portypool (2.30) Neath v Swarsea Weish League

Dunyani v Neath (2.30). Second division

THIRD DIVISION (2.30) Builth Wells v Tredeger, Kentig Hill v Tenby United; Marthyr v Llenharen; Mountain Ash v Penarth SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-18 inter-national: England v France (at Twick-omnam), Delly Mell Cup: Under-18 finat: Colson's v Nichem GS (at Twickenham, 1.15) Under-15 finat: RGS High Wycombe v Whilgiti (at Twickenham, 11.45)

Fourth round

Berwick v Corsorprans
Currie v Gala
Dundee HSFP v Glasgow Academicals
Edinburgh Academicals v Kilmarnock
Edinburgh University v Glenrothes
Glasgow Southern v Aberdeen GSFP
Hawick v Boroughmuir
Hawick Linden v Stewart's MeMile FP
Hawick Linden v Stewart's MeMile FP Kricaldy v Hamilton Academicals Peobles v Musselburgh St. Boswells v Melrose
Striing County v Stewartry
West of Scotland v Glasgow HK ...

SRU TENNIENTS 1556 BOWAL First round: Bigger v Gordoniens, Bute v Duntermitrie; Grangermouth v Howe of Fite: Haddington v Selvris Hetensburgh v Cartha OP; Livingston v Aberdeersahre, Preston Lodge v Gamock; Trinty Academasals v Langholm.

Insurance Corporation League First division Ballymena v Garryowen (2.30) Cork Constitution v Blackrock College (2.30)

Second division

OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: Buchweiser League:
Crystal Palace v Newcastle (5.0), Derby
v Leicester (7.30): Hernel and Watford v
London (7.30): Worthing v Sheffield
(8.0): National League: Men: First
division: Liverpool v Solent; Mud Sussex
v Cardiff; Nottingham v Ware, Oxford v
Coventry Second division: Firinshire v
Thames Valley; Notthampton v
Chessington; Sheffield v Swindon;
South Bank, Women: First division:
Barking and Dagenham v Notthampton;
Ipswich v Birmingham, London v
Thames Valley; Nottingham v
Harlesden; Rhondda v Crystal Palace. Harlesder: Rhondia v Crystal Palace, Spetthorne v Shelfted. Second division: Play-offs: Semi-final: Liverpool v Leicester.

BOWLS: English indoor champion of champions (at Bernbridge) BOXING: British super-fe championahip (vacant) Neil Swein (Wales) v Michael Brodie (Manchester). Super-middleweight bout: Joe Cal-zaghe (Wales) v Tylar Hughes (US) (at Wythenshawe Forum, Manchester). GOLF: University metch: Oxford v Cambridge (at Royal St George's). ICE HOCKEY: BT Connections Superleague play-off championship: Semi-finals: Carolif v Sheffield (1.30): Ayr v Nottingham (6 40) (both at Nynex Arena, Manchester). LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Soci-

ety League: Premier division: Heaton Mersey v Cheadle; Hulmelens v Board-man and Eccles ROWING: Head of the River (Tideway). SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Bradlord v Swindon (7 30); Covertry v Wolverhamoton (7,30). SQUASH: Interlink women's open rat

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff). VOLTEYBALL: National Leegue: Men: First division: Writefield v Ealing (7 0); Warwick v Lewisham (6.30), Tooting v Liverpool (6.30), Stoke v Leeds (6.30); Crotton v Wessex (3.0) Women: First division: Loughborough v Liverpool (4.30); Britannia Music City v Saliord

FOOTBALL Berkhamsted & Three Bridges, Brighton and, Howe v Langford Oxford Res v Wmbledon lOck-oti 3 0 unless stated denotes all-ticker match SCHOOLS MATCHES: Montaigu inter-national tournement: England v Boffina (at Les Sabie: d Olonne, 2.30). Welsh Schools Shield: Quarter-final: Cynon Matteria. FA Certing Premiership Wimbledon v Newcasile (4 0)

Valley v Cardiff

HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Blueharts - Hult (at Hirchin Boys' School. 230). Soummille v Beeston lat ving Edward's Girls School Birmingham, 230; Bromies v Indian Gwrihishara (at Priors Lessivo Centra Orpington, 1 0); Brooklands v Isoa (at George's Road, Beach 20) Cirly of Portsmouth's Lewes (at Alexandra Farly 1 30), Chosty v Oxford Harsks (at Chiqueell 10) Doncarder v Oxford University (at Bernetthorpe 20). Edibastion v Shetheld (at Birmingham Characteristics are the managed and the control of

RUGBY UNION Epbw Vale v Caerphily (2.30) RUGBY LEAGUE

> Castlelord v Wigan (6.35)...... First division Second division Barrow v Rochdala

CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Kick-oft 30 unless stated Stones Super League

TOMORROW

Doncaste: v Bailey (2.0)..... Silk Cut Plate

Largh v Hull Kingston Rovers Widnes v Hunsler

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweiser Leagus: New castle v Thames Valley (5.30); Sheffield v Crystei Palace (5.30); Leopards v Cheste (6.30); London v Derby (5.0). BOWLS: English indoor champion champions (at Bernbridge).

GOLF: University match: Oxford v Cambridge (at Royal Si George's). MOTOR SPORT: British Formula Three Championship (at Donington Park). ROWING: Women's University Boat Race SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cut: Eastbourne v lpswich (3.30); Swindon v Bradford (6.0)

SOUASH: Interlink women's open (at SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at VOLLEYBALL: National League: First

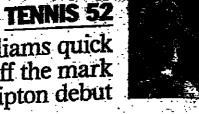


RACING 50, 51

Fifty years on: why Timeform is still a good bet

SP()RT

Williams quick off the mark in Lipton debut



SATURDAY MARCH 22 1997

Paris match stirs Liverpool memories

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS Paris in the spring then, the draw for the Cup Winners Cup semi-finals offering Liverpool a return to the Parc de Princes stadium, where, memorably, they secured a third European Cup final success in 1981.

Much has happened since that balmy evening, when the Anfield club joined the ranks of European superpowers by, fittingly, outma-nocuvring Real Madrid to lift the

champions trophy again.

Heysel has removed the innocence of that time forever, but still Liverpool will take fond memories of a European Cup won by an Alan Kennedy goal into their semi-final, first leg against Paris Saint-Ger-

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, was a member of the backroom staff that enjoyed the

springtime stroll in Paris and Sammy Lee, now an Anfield coach, formed a midfield with Graeme Sourcess that belligerently countered the threat of the Real playmaker, Uli Stielike. It was a night when Liverpool confirmed England's arrival at the high table of European football, but Evans is reluctant to dwell on such niceties.

Given the news at lunchtime yesterday of the draw among what is considered as strong a final four as the competition has produced. Evans was reluctant to loiter in the past. "It is a good draw, because it will be an exciting tie," he said.

"We had no preference at this stage because all four teams are equally strong, although it is nice to be heading back to Paris. People are talking about our success there in the European Cup, but really that is irrelevant. This team of players have not won a European



EUROPEAN CUP DRAWS

EUROPEAN CUP: Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United Ajax

C) First leg April 9, second leg April 23 UEFA CUP: Tenerito y Schalbe 94 Internazionale y AS Monaco □ First leg April 8 second leg April 27 Liverpool □ First leg April 10, second leg April 24

trophy and the important thing is that we go out and start to make Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had initially hoped for such

history all over again." If the draw was kind in any way to Liverpool, then it was in handing them a visit to Paris in the first leg. usually regarded as an advantage in knockout competitions. Manchester United, 100, received the same benefit and will visit Germany in the first leg of their European Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund on April 9.

Trafford, which, I'm sure, will be seething for a semi-final. But then we were magnificent at home an outcome after pushing past FC Porto on Wednesday, but now the against Porto and we could use that momentum, too. I'm glad to be Scot accepts that there are benefits whichever way round the tie is playing against a team of Dortmund's quality. played. "I've had time to consider

Both Liverpool and Manchester United are second favourites for their respective compensions, offering some perspective for those who continue to question the standing of English clubs in Europe. It is true that Newcastle United's tame performance in Monaco last Tuesday hardly enhanced the Premiership's reputation, but a study of the remaining teams in the three European competitions provides a less emotional analysis of the balance of power in Europe.

Italy, predictably, has the right to claim to be the strongest nation with three semi-finalists, but behind them are England, Germany, Spain and France with two teams remaining. The only other country represented is Holland, with the sole presence of Ajax. There is an elite developing across the Conti-nent and the English are healthy movers among them.

Indeed, there is a reasonable case to be made for both Manchester United and Liverpool maintaining their momentum all the way to their finals, a scenario likely to put England on a par with the Italians.

Ferguson, confident now after to very public growing paus of the side, yesterday offered to be English representation in the same pean Cup final for the first passince 1985.

I'm not apprehensive ! do no believe that Borussia are a base side than us. I think it is very class and that it is even money as to which side will go through." he

We have similar characteristics and even their stadium is like an English stadium. I think it will be a really good, close game that we should be confident about."

Ferguson believes that Manchester United supporters will be exonerated for their role in the troubles in Oporto last Wednesday when a committee of Uela, the European governing body, meets on Tuesday evening to examine reports from the second leg.

Racing the loser as political posturing hits Tote

By Richard Evans

MAJOR GENERAL Guy Watkins has "won" the race for the Tote chairmanship but now finds himself the subject of an unprecedented objection and political inquiry which will take months to resolve.

The former chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club must feel like a 33-i shot who has come from last to first - only to face the through no fault of his own.

Having failed to reach the shortlist of three for the Tote job submitted to Michael Howard, Watkins, 64, subsequently caught the eye of the Home Secretary and a press statement announcing his ap-

pointment was prepared. However, he finds himself a victim of early general election skirmishes which mean no successor to Lord Wyatt of Weeford will be appointed until after polling day. Whatthe disagreement between Howard and Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, which prompted the postponement, racing, the Tote and Watkins are all losers.

The worst-kept secret in racing was Lord Wyatt's intense lobbying on behalf of Sir Willie Rous for the Tote chairmanship. The peer does not take kindly to having his views rejected, least of all by the Home Secretary, and it is safe to assume that he will be indignant Meanwhile, Watkins will have to sit and suffer as people debate whether he is the right man for the job.

His credentials, superficially at least, are impressive. Educated at King's, Canterbury, he yearned to become a trainer but followed family tradition and joined the Army in 1951. He became one of its youngest generals and held a variety of posts before retiring in 1986 to take up the post as chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

During his ten-year spell in the colony, racing boomed. Betting turnover went up to HK\$80 billion (about £6.5 billion), the horse population increased from 750 to 1.100. attendances grew and simulcasting was introduced.

He returned to Britain last spring, since when he has become a director of the British Bloodstock Agency and Racecourse Holdings Trust, the Jockey Club-owned subsidiary which owns a dozen courses including Epsom. Sandown and Cheltenham.

Election casualty, page 1 Racing, pages 50 and 51

Junior figure skater poised to become women's world champion

the draw for who is at home first

and I came up with reasons to

Away from home first allows

support both scenarios," he said.

you to go for a decent result and

then bring them back to Old

Lipinski makes child's play of grown-up sport

et us get the important fact down first. The leader of the women's world figure skating champ-ionship here in Lausanne lost her final milk tooth a fort-night ago. Tara Lipinski, of the United States, is 14 was brought up in a place called Sugarland, Texas, stands 4ft 8in tall and weighs a fraction under 5½ stone.

Yes, it's pass-the-sick-bag time again. Actually, skating has just raised its minimum age to 15, but Lipinski gets in because she had already made her senior competitive debut. Mind you, she does not look 14, with her tightlybunned hair, her lipstick and her mascara, she looks about

"I want her to look like she is 14," Richard Callaghan, her coach, said, "But a sophisticated 14." Abandon hope. She skated her short programme yesterday to music from the film, Little Women. Little women indeed! This was a little girl, lisping round the ice. I was conscious of a deep and powerful sense of toecurling embarrassment. The American press already have a private nickname for her. They call her "The robotic

She is on course to be a multimillionairess before the disaster of puberty strikes, but that looks years off. If Lipinski manages to skate clean today, she will become the youngest world champion since Sonia Henje, of Norway, won in 1927. It is a thought that makes many

people profoundly uneasy. But there are some people in ice skating who see no problem. A minimum age, their counter-argument runs, will bring a situation in which the juniors are better than the seniors. And certainly there is no arguing with Lipinski's

jumping.
Speciacular? Not a bit of it. The simple physics of size give her a colossal advantage. If you want to get a better idea of what this means, imagine George Foreman performing a triple lutz. When it comes to defying gravity, tumbling and twisting, the laws of physics state that a good little un will

always beat a good big 'un. Lipinski is very talented, and, quite obviously, a massively strong-minded person. And it is horrible to watch her: really quite disturbing.



Simon Barnes confesses his

unease at the involvement of girls in adult competition

We have been through all this with gymnastics, and the sport has responded by raising its minimum age to 16 and loading the marks in favour of grace. After all, in both sports, the same movement is much easier for an athlete of 4ft Sin than one of 5ft 4in. The shorter performer is a virtuoso, perhaps a cute one. The taller woman is a creature of beauty and grace.

However, women's ice skating finds itself in the absurd

position in which puberty is a disadvantage. This is clearly silly. Michelle Kwan, the defending champion, another American now at the venerable age of 16, is struggling. What was easy last year is hard today. "Michelle has had to struggle with the fact that her body has been changing quite a bit in the past Frank Carroll, her coach, said. Well, that's the way it is with girls and their bodies. I remember when I first noticed that.

I am not objecting to the presence of little girls in adult



by the death of her coach

sport on the grounds of child abuse. Skating is of course a cruel business, but then so is every other sport. Look at the wastage rate of little boys who want to be professional footballers if you want to ring normally out of mind because you don't see little boys playing in the Premiership. No, it is more a question of

adult abuse. A system of marks that penalises competitors who have had the misfortune to reach puberty is simply absurd. It is abuse of adults, and of the whole nature of and point of sport.

Cares hunger round the strung up like a banjo at the start, remembering her recent disastrous performance in the United States national championships, missed her combination jump. Nicole Bobek is now a crone of 19. She, you'll recall, is the bad girl of skating - no, not the really bad one, that's Tonya Harding. Bobek merely faced a house-breaking charge a couple of years ago. She, shattered by the death of her coach, Carlo Fassi, on Thursday, burst into tears at the start of her performance, and

fell during the course of it. The saddest sight of all was Lu Chen, the world champion in 1995, when she seemed a creature made almost entirely of cloud. She was nine-tenths nimbus and a champion. Now she is a handsome woman of 20 who is hagridden by doubt. She has never recovered from a stress fracture of her ankle. She came here after just three weeks' training, and got one desperate mark of three (out of six, remember). She failed to make the cut and will not skate in the free programme this afternoon.

these women of ice skating. "I've been thinking too much," Kwan said. "Instead of just going out on to the ice and doing it." No sign of such an affliction in Lipinski, a person to whom - now worry, and perhaps thought itself is a stranger. I suppose we were all immortal at 14.

They know what worry is,



Lipinski acknowledges the applause after her short programme in Lausanne yesterday

Edwards suffers failings of IAAF drug policy

FROM DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN TURIN

THE International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) admitted here yesterday that its four-year ban on athletes who take drugs is unenforceable in some countries and introduced a two-tier punishment system. It means, for example, that Paul Edwards, the British shot putter, who was sent home from the 1994 Commonwealth Games, remains suspended knowing that, if he was German, French, Russian or Spanish. or from one of at least eight countries outside Great Britain, he would be free to

In a bizarre announcement, the IAAF reinstated two Ger-man athletes after they had served two years because their_ national law had ruled that a four-year ban was unreason-_ able. Yet it threw out an appeal by Edwards, who is in. suspension. Britain has no such law. Dr Arne Ljungqvist, the chairman of the IAAF medical commission, admit-

ted that the ruling was unfair. That is the problem we have," Ljungqvist said. "It is not my personal wish to reduce the ban, but I must face facts - that we have a simation where we cannot enforce the rules." Ljungqvist said that a two-year ban would operate on athletes from countries where the law so dictated, where there was court-case precedent or a government statement which would be recognised as equal to law or precedent".

When an athlete fails a drugs test, it is the responsibility of the national member federation to enforce the ban. Realising that a member cannot go against the law, we have, in theory, two mechanisms. One is to expel the member because the membercannot abide by our rules, although that is just a hypothetical possibility; the other is to reinstate athletes under the exceptional circumstances. rule." So now Susen Tiedtke-Green, a long jumper, and Martin Brehmer, a middledistance runner, both German, are free to compete.

The IAAF council, which took the decision, agreed to recommend to congress. which meets in July, that all bans be reduced from four years to two. "We have put it before congress twice fin the past] and twice it has been rejected," Ljungqvist said, but we cannot implement a four-year ban worldwide and it is unfair to have it."



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